

## Derelict Budgens building to be bulldozed in scheme

# NEW ALDI STORE IN THE PIPELINE

By Charlotte Callear

**LONG-AWAITED** plans to breathe life into a former Budgens store that has been boarded up for over a year, have been submitted.

The derelict building in Coppice Farm Way, Willenhall, is set to be bulldozed to make way for a new Aldi after the Budgens was shut down in March last year.

It was one of 34 stores that closed after their owner collapsed into administration last year, causing the loss of 815 jobs nationally. The announcement that Aldi would be opening came back in September and if it gets the green light by Walsall Borough Council, it could bring 50 jobs to the area.

Councillor Adam Hicken welcomes the plans but has concerns over traffic. He said: "I welcome the plans finally being submitted. It is a year on from when I originally wrote to Aldi after the Budgens closed. For the last eight months whenever I talk with residents, they always ask when the new Aldi is going to be built. It is on everyone's minds."

### Concern

"I did a survey recently and there were 560 responses and not a single one of them had anything negative to say about the development. Residents support it and I support it, and now it is whether the council will back it. That is the big concern."

"I hope they do not sit on their hands with this one and take their time. I think the appearance of the building will be better with one storey but I suppose anything will look better than a big derelict store."

Under the plans there will be 114 parking spaces with six disabled spaces and another six for parents with children, along with eight cycle parking spaces.

The other three stores on the plot of land will not be impacted by the development.

STOAS Architects Ltd wrote in the planning application on behalf of Aldi Stores Ltd: "The proposed development will provide a much needed new local food retail store for the residential areas surrounding the site which currently have limited provision. We believe the proposals represent a well thought out and sensitive response to the constraints of the site."

## ROCKY HOPES TO HOG GARDEN MAKEOVER CONTEST



Alice Mansfield, aged seven, with Lara Mansfield and pet Gloucestershire pig, Rocky, and the family dog, Bruno

THIS pampered pig's proud Black County owner wants to win a competition to create his perfect paradise.

Rocky the 43-stone Gloucestershire pig lives on slabs in a garden in Coalpool, Walsall at Lara Mansfield's house along with two children and three dogs.

They have entered the Magical Garden Makeover competition with Mybuilder, a marketplace for homeowners to find tradesmen, to win a total garden transformation that is up for grabs if they earn the most votes.

The 31-year-old has lived in the house all

her life and the garden used to have grass before they put down slabs 20 years ago. It is separated into three segments for the pig, daughters and dogs to all play in their own area and she said she would love to see it transformed into somewhere more 'comfortable'.

She said: "I have never entered anything like this before but my garden is all concrete slabs at the moment and they are all cracked so it is no good for the kids to play on."

"It would be great to have somewhere comfortable for the pig and a place for my kids

to play plus it would be nice to invite friends around for a barbecue there too."

"We have had the pig for two and a half years, I just always wanted one and when I tell people he's my pet, no-one ever believes me."

"He always looks a lot smaller in photos but he has got a lot more growing to do - he has only just started teething."

"It would mean everything to get it renovated really." To vote go online to [mybuilder.com/competitions/garden-makeover-2018/entries/9863](http://mybuilder.com/competitions/garden-makeover-2018/entries/9863).

### OBESITY

## Study focuses on health problems

INFANT mortality, rates of diabetes and obesity are above the national average, a special report on the region's health has revealed. The study looks at health profiles published by Public Health England for each district in the Black Country.

Walsall Council spokesman Sophia French says it is working closely with the NHS to tackle health inequality. The profiles show seven babies under one die out of 1,000 in the borough. The national average is four.

Nine per cent of people in the borough have diabetes compared to the national average of six, and 26 per cent of children are obese, compared to the national average of 20. Alcohol, smoking and drugs are also problems in Walsall.

### PLANNING

## New office block near retail park

AN office block taking over 18,500 sq m of space will be built near a retail park. Brackley Property Developments was granted outline planning permission for the 'employment development' in Reedswood Way.

The land will be transformed for the commercial development. More than 300 parking spaces are also planned.

Developers said it was hoped to bring vacant land back into use and create local jobs.

### POLICE

## Body discovered by walker in field

THE body of a man was found in a field in Walsall. A member of the public alerted police after they discovered the body in Doe Bank Lane, in Pheasey, last Friday.

The body has been identified as a local man in his 40s, police said. Officers said his death was not being treated as suspicious. His family have been notified and a file will be prepared for the coroner in due course.

### INSIDE

## Yeehaw! Laura's a country queen



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# Jorja heads homes for Blue Lights video



A clip from the music video

WALSALL singer Jorja Smith has captured her hometown in her newest music video for critically-acclaimed hit Blue Lights.

The black and white video, directed by Olivia Rose, involves an all-male cast including local residents in Walsall to show the impact of 'the stereotypes we are bombarded with'.

The 20-year-old singer said she drew her inspiration for the song from Walsall and the video features men and boys at Walsall Magistrates Court, nearby flats, barbers, homes and parks, as well as

some well-known local musicians. Birmingham-born artists Mike Skinner, Jaykae and Mist all appear in the film.

Blue Lights is her debut single and was released in 2016, with the new powerful video created ahead of the global release of her debut album Lost and Found on June 8.

**Stereotypes**

Smith has spent three years writing the songs that make up the album – beginning the process as a 17-year-old.

She said: "I wanted to capture men/

boys of Walsall and Birmingham from all different walks of life doing everyday activities to show that the stereotypes we are bombarded with are misleading and, ultimately, harmful.

"I chose Walsall as the setting for the video as that is where I am from and where I drew my inspiration from when writing the song."

Smith won the Brit Award for Critics' Choice and has collaborated with Drake, Stormzy, and Kali Uchis. To watch the video visit: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5YwnQMQuJI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5YwnQMQuJI)

# Opening hours of tips to be extended, pledge

**TIP opening hours at sites across Walsall are set to be extended to tackle fly-tipping, it has been pledged as the Tories prepare to take back control of the council.**

Leader-elect Councillor Mike Bird said the Tories' top priority is tackling litter and fly-tipping.

That could lead to both council tips in Bloxwich and Aldridge being opened for seven days a week, Councillor Bird suggested. The Bloxwich site is currently closed on Thursdays and Fridays while the Aldridge site is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Councillor Bird said: "We are looking to extend the hours at the tips as littering and street fly-tipping is a big problem. And we believe access to the tips is paramount to reducing the amount of fly-tipping in the borough."

## Figures

"I have already spoken to the chief executive to ask how it can be costed and we're looking at where we can find money within the existing budget to do this. We will just need to wait and see what the figures are and where that money can be found."

It could be seven days a week and open until 5pm but we need to see what options they can come up with."

The Tories are set to return to power with a minority administration after winning five seats. This leaves them with 30 overall out of 60 council seats – just one short of an overall majority. Labour lost two of their seats taking them down to 26 councillors.

Councillor Bird paid a personal tribute to Walsall North MP Eddie Hughes, and councillors Adrian Andrew and Adam Hicken for their efforts during the election campaign. He described the Conservative group's election success as 'exceptional'.

The Tories' election success even saw them congratulated by PM Theresa May.

● Results – Page 14-15

## Walsall stars raise cash for Lolly



Mark Taylor and Gary Hal get ready for the charity match with Walsall FC All Stars as they raise funds for Asthma UK

HUNDREDS of pounds was raised for charity in the name of a teenager who had a 'zest for life'. Walsall FC All Stars went head-to-head with former Darlaston Town FC 1874 players under the sun at Bentley Leisure Pavilion in Walsall, in memory of Lauren 'Lolly' Wilkinson.

About 100 visitors enjoyed the match and they raised more than £500, which will go towards Asthma UK in memory of Lolly who died from an asthma attack that led to a cardiac arrest last year. The Grace Academy sixth form student from Darlaston used to volunteer at Darlaston Town FC along with her sister, Nicola Waite, aged 39, where a stand was named after

her at the Paycare Ground. Nicola said: "It means a lot to us as a family. We are still waiting for more money to come in but at the moment we have counted £500 and we are very pleased with that."

A fundraising campaign set up in her name, called Hugs for Lolly, has raised £7,000 since she died last January.

The club will be holding another charity match at 3pm on Sunday and the proceeds will go towards Birmingham Children's Hospital Critical Journeys Appeal.

Wolves All Stars will be playing Wednesday AFC Vets at The Paycare Ground which costs £5 for adults and £2.50 for children.



Lauren Wilkinson

# Man locked up for knife attack on his own brother

A MAN who repeatedly stabbed his brother in a frenzied attack has been jailed for nine and a half years.

Gareth Cable, aged 42, knifed James Cable at least seven times at the home of their sister after a row, a jury heard.

The victim was wounded in the right shoulder, face, back of the head, arm, hand and through the cheek into his mouth. The assault could have claimed the life of James if a police officer had not Tasered the defendant in the back, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Trouble flared when James Cable returned to the address in Birchfield Way, Walsall, in February last year – a day after being ejected by police officers.

He went back to the house after being released by police at around 11.30am. Police were alerted but the defendant went outside to confront his brother, said Mr Harpreet Sandhu, prosecuting.

The officers had gone inside to discuss the situation with other members of the family when he suddenly pulled out a knife.

Gareth Cable from Norton Crescent, Bordesley Green was found not guilty of attempted murder.

He admitted causing grievous bodily harm with intent and possession of two knives.

# Lino-ing up for new workshop

A WORKSHOP will teach visitors how to create and print their own unique image using a block of lino.

Jon Gill will lead the demonstration at Walsall Leather Museum on May 19.

Visitors will be shown how to transfer their image to the block and how to cut it using tools, before being taught how to ink up and print their image using a burnishing method.

The course costs £35 and all materials are included.

Places need to be booked by calling 01922 652288.

A papier mache workshop for children also takes place on May 26.

The session, which is suitable for six to 12-year-olds, costs £4 and runs from 1.30pm until 3.30pm. Again, places need to be booked.

# Visit Planet Abba and help charities

AN Abba tribute night is being staged in Willenhall next month.

The Willenhall Ay We group is hosting Planet Abba at Willow's Hall in Bath Street on June 29 to raise funds for St Giles Hospice and the Connor John Appeal. More details on 07596 634281.

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# Director in companies ban for fire danger case

A BUSINESSMAN at the helm of a firm that ran two sites where thousands of tons of household and wood waste created a major fire risk has been banned from working as a company director for five years and ordered to pay over £36,000 costs.

Rubbish was stored so badly it was in danger of self combusting, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Edward McIntosh was director of Caledonian Waste Ltd – now dissolved – which had sites at West Bromwich Road, Walsall and Friar Park Road, Wednesbury. It got a permit for the Walsall site in 2013 and in three months of 2014 had 2,900 bales of household waste dumped there.

It was kept for longer than permitted, stored incorrectly creating a fire risk and did not have a management plan, said Mr Ben Mills, prosecuting.

McIntosh agreed to remove some of the waste but 'nothing significant' happened. He claimed he could not get cash from the company account for the work but paid himself to remove 80 bales, less than the 800 required.

The site continued to operate after having its permit withdrawn. In 2014 the company became involved in a wood waste facility in Friar Park Road and grossly exceeded the 500 tons of wood it was allowed to process.

McIntosh, from Adams Hill, Birmingham admitted seven breaches of environmental law.

# Last few tickets to see legend Gazza

ENGLAND football legend Paul Gascoigne is in Cannock tonight (Thursday) – and a handful of tickets are still on sale.

'Gazza', who was one of England's leading lights at Italia 90 and Euro 96, is at Bar Sport's Premier Suite, High Green, for a World Cup warm-up event.

Football fans have flocked to buy tickets for the evening with the former Newcastle, Tottenham, Lazio, Rangers, Middlesbrough and Everton midfielder.

The venue has confirmed that just a few gold and silver tickets for the evening remain.

Anyone interested can call the venue on 01543 572092 for more information.

# Office demolition

OFFICES and a workshop are set be demolished to make way for homes.

A dozen two-bedroom apartments will be built in Doctors Piece, Walsall.

Outline planning permission has been granted by Walsall Council.

# MP Gavin calls to secure Beatties' future



Wolverhampton's flagship store

DEFENCE Secretary Gavin Williamson has criticised House of Fraser for failing to invest in Beatties as he urged bosses to safeguard the future of the under threat store.

The iconic Wolverhampton store is hanging in the balance after the Chinese owner of House of Fraser – which has owned Beatties since 2005 – announced it will close stores this year as part of a major restructuring deal. South Staffordshire MP Mr Williamson said under-investment by House of Fraser represented a 'missed opportunity' for the department store

chain, especially when it comes to Wolverhampton's Beatties.

He says he has written to bosses asking for reassurances over their commitment to Beatties, and also how they plan to make the business thrive in future. Mr Williamson, who is the Government's Defence Secretary, said: "Not only is Beatties such a landmark store, but it is also an important economic draw for the city of Wolverhampton.

"This is more than just a shop it is the beating heart of the city centre and I will be writing to the chief execu-

utive asking for reassurances that the store is going to be continuing.

"Actually what we should be looking at is how House of Fraser can start investing in the store and investing in the future of Wolverhampton."

Concerns for Beatties have grown after Calvetron, the owner of fashion retailer Jacques Vert, went into administration, putting more than a thousand jobs at risk.

Jacques Vert has a store in the city centre department store. Administrators at Duff & Phelps will now commence selling off the retailer's stock.

# 1,000 drivers caught using mobile phones

**MORE than 1,000 drivers in the West Midlands have been caught using their mobile phones at the wheel in the first year of increased fines.**

New figures have shown the number of motorists caught by the region's police force while using a handheld mobile phone between March 1, 2017 and February 28, 2018.

A total of 1,234 drivers were caught since harsher penalties were introduced last March. The penalties for the offence doubled from £100 and three penalty points to £200 and six points.

Nationally, the Department for Transport said more than 26,000 motorists have been punished in the first year since the more severe penalties came into force. Among those are 500 novice drivers who have had their licences revoked for using their phone behind the wheel in their first two years of driving.

In the West Midlands, 123 drivers were caught using their phones in a week-long crackdown in January.

Inspector Sion Hathaway, from Central Motorway Police Group (CMPG), said: "While society has changed in terms of the growing use of technology, there is a time and place for this – and this is certainly not while driving.

"It's disappointing to see that people continue to break the law and put the lives of not only themselves, but others, at risk.

"Being distracted while driving can have life-changing consequences and even though the campaign is over we will still be monitoring our roads to catch those who commit such an offence. It is a no-win; at the very least you face six penalty points and a £200 fine."

Among the people to support the increase in fines for motorists caught on the phone was Lisa Thomas, whose daughter Laura died after she was hit by a vehicle on the A5 in Shropshire. Mrs Thomas, from Great Haywood, near Stafford, who has raised almost £30,000 in memory of her daughter, said previously: "It is soul destroying to see so many other families lose a loved one because someone behind the wheel was using a mobile phone."

# Country gal Laura's a chart-topper



25-year-old Laura Aston, of Wednesbury who has shot to the top of the country music charts

A BLACK Country singer is celebrating after her charity single reached number one in the country music charts.

Laura Aston, from Wednesbury, videos to her fans on Facebook, receiving millions of views. But recently the 25-year-old was approached by charity Libby Mae's Little Angels to release a single.

The track, Remember Me, was released on April 26, and stormed

straight into the number two in the iTunes country charts – and number one in the Google Play country charts. Laura is an incident manager at RAC and lives with partner David and her three-year-old daughter.

She added: "I was approached by the charity and I am very honoured to have released the single in aid of the charity."

Libby Mae's Little Angels raises

funds for special care baby units and has helped to save the lives of hundreds of babies.

It was launched by couple Charlotte and Rich Sharratt following the death of their daughter Libby Mae in May 2013, two weeks after she was born.

Remember Me is available to download of iTunes and Google Play for 99p – with all proceeds going to the charity.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

# Couple raise £5k for Whizz-Kidz



Andrea and Richard Tipper

A COUPLE who ran their first marathon side by side have raised more than £5,000 for a charity close to their hearts.

Andrea and Richard Tipper, from Walsall, chose to raise funds for Whizz-Kidz after the charity provided their 13-year-old daughter, Libby, with a bespoke manual wheelchair to better support her mobility needs and independence. They took part in the Virgin Money London Marathon on April 22 following a 17-week fitness and training programme.

Mrs Tipper said: "Whizz-Kidz provided Libby with a lightweight wheelchair, and it's transformed her life for the better. The wheelchair has played an important role in giving Libby more independence and confidence, so when we found out that we could run for Whizz-Kidz at the London Marathon, I just knew me and my husband had to get involved."

# Sale of site for 22-bed home

A DEVELOPMENT site with planning permission for a 22-bedroom care facility is to be sold at auction.

The land in Little Aston, near Lichfield, will go under the hammer through by SDL Auctions Bigwood at Villa Par on May 23. House on the Hill in Rosemary Hill Road has previously been used as a care facility and sits on a site of approximately 0.72 acres.

It has a guide price of more than £700,000 in the auction. Gurpreet Bassi, head of residential sales at SDL Auctions Bigwood, said: "It is very rare a site such as this becomes available in an area such as Little Aston."

# Discover area's top attractions

AN exhibition to showcase a borough's top attractions is due this weekend. The exhibition, organised by Dudley Council's Discover Dudley team, will be held at Merry Hill Shopping Centre on Saturday between 9am and 7pm.

Staff from attractions will be on hand to provide information and give ideas of the best places to visit and things to do in the borough.

Attendees will also be able to get hands-on experiences with 'have a go' craft sessions.

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# COUNTY NEWS

## Group raises £2.5k for Alzheimer's

A BUSINESS has raised thousands of pounds for a dementia support and research charity.

Staff at the Black Country Housing Group teamed up with customers to raise £2,500 for the Alzheimer's Society through sports days, car washes, theatre trips and tea parties. The business, based in Blackheath, has agreed to match fund the amount raised, bringing the total to £5,000.

BCHG provides affordable homes and care services in Sandwell, Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Birmingham. Boss Amanda Tomlinson, said: "We are extremely proud to donate to such a worthy cause."

## Fairport call in for Walsall gig

LEGENDARY folk-rockers Fairport Convention are gigging in the Black Country on Saturday.

The band that have produced more than 28 records will arrive at the Forest Arts Centre's A3 Arena in Walsall ahead of their ever-popular Cropredy Convention festival in Oxfordshire in August.

Their Liege & Lief album is regarded as the most influential folk album of all time.

Their latest record last year, 50:50@50, celebrated the golden anniversary of the band, who are showing few signs of letting up just yet. Tickets for the show are priced at £22.

## Firms' workloads are building up

WORKLOADS of small and medium-sized construction firms grew slightly in the first three months of this year despite record numbers of builders reporting rising material prices.

The Federation of Master Builders' latest State of Trade survey, the only quarterly assessment of the UK-wide SME construction sector, saw 49 per cent of firms predict rising workloads in the coming three months, up from 38 per cent in the previous quarter.

## Cheers! As beer and cider festival returns

THE Kinver Summer Craft Beer and Cider Festival is back next month, running from 5pm to midnight on Friday June 8 and noon to midnight on the Saturday.

The popular event takes place at Kinver Sports and Community Association in Legion Drive. Admission will be £3 with a glass or £1 without. There will also be live music and street food.

# Picture was catalyst for slimmer Julia



An overweight Julia

"I LOOKED at a picture that had been taken and didn't recognise myself" - That was the momentous moment Julia Humpage, from the Black Country, decided to make a change.

Since then, 56-year-old Julia has lost a life-changing five stone, dropping from 14st 6 to 9st 7. Now she's lost so much weight some of her friends no longer recognise her. "I have bumped into people I haven't seen for a while and they have walked past me," Julia said.

Julia has swapped popcorn and Haribo for baked oats and fruit - her dress size has plummeted from size 20 to a trim size eight.

"I'm happier and a lot more confident," she

said. "I love the way I look and the way I feel.

"Clothes shopping is lovely and not having to worry about hiding under dark, baggy clothes like I did before." Mother-of-five Julia has also inspired some of her friends to make a positive change. "I try and encourage others to try and do something about their weight," Julia said.

Despite being a qualified adult education teacher and part-qualified accountant, Julia's poor health means she is unable to work.

She suffers with diverticular disease and endometriosis, among other conditions.

However, she says losing weight has helped her to cope better with her conditions.



Julia now, with an old skirt

# Family told to leave as deadly gas leak found

Report by Richard Guttridge

A MOTHER says her family 'could have died' after they were evacuated following a carbon monoxide leak at their home - three days after she first raised concerns about her gas fire.

Sheena Newell and her three children, including a one-month-old baby, were ordered to leave the property in Booth Street, Darlaston, immediately following the discovery of the toxic gas - which can be deadly if high levels are inhaled.

They were taken to hospital but after being checked over by medics it was found they had not been harmed by the gas, which has been dubbed the 'silent killer' as it has no smell or taste.

Miss Newell, aged 29, and her three children, Kaiden, six, Rio, four, and baby Zayne were urged to leave following the leak.

The mother said she contacted housing provider Accord when she noticed 'blackening' on the tiles around her fireplace. It was arranged to be fixed two days later, only for the appointment to be cancelled.

The concerned mother-of-three then rang an emergency number after which an inspection of her fire by gas safety experts found there had been a carbon monoxide leak.

Accord said it had launched an investigation into 'the problems experienced by Miss Newell and her family'.

Miss Newell said: "The machine kept beeping and he said to get out of the house. He said carbon monoxide was leaking. I was scared as I've got three kids. He said we had to get out now. Three ambulances came out.



Sheena Newell with one-month-old Zayne and four-year-old Rio next to the gas fire in their Darlaston home

They were concerned about the little one, my youngest is just a month old."

She said she had yet to return to the family home following the leak. "I've been staying at my mum's house as I'm scared to go back inside," she said. "All of us could have been dead. I'm scared to go back in there in case it hasn't been cleared properly."

A woman in her 70s died and her husband was hospitalised following a suspected carbon monoxide leak at their home in Cannock in April, prompting a warning from fire service chiefs.

Accord said it was first contacted by Miss Newell on Wednesday, April 25,

to arrange a 'routine repair' to her fire and that the job two days later was rearranged by 'mutual consent'.

A team from gas firm Cadent was sent to inspect the property on Saturday, April 28, when the family was evacuated.

Accord spokeswoman Karen Donoghue said: "Accord takes gas safety very seriously, and we use an independent contractor to ensure all our work, inspections and services are of the very highest quality. This property received a gas service on January 5, where all appliances were certified as being in a safe and working condition." She continued "We are in

contact with Ms Newell and we are offering support, help and advice following an understandably difficult time and we are reassured that Ms Newell and her children are safe and well."

"We have provided alternative temporary means of heating. A new heating system is being installed today. Accord is carrying out an investigation into the problems experienced by Ms Newell and her family."

Recently-elected Walsall North MP Eddie Hughes has led a campaign to make carbon monoxide alarms mandatory in newly built and rented properties that contain a gas, liquid, or solid fuel burning appliance.

# Expansion of hospital given the green light

PLANS for a £65 million expansion to a major West Midlands hospital have been given the go-ahead.

The scheme at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham will see the postgraduate centre opposite the women's hospital knocked down and replaced by a new, partly private, seven-storey building.

Bosses said the new base 'will deliver high quality acute healthcare for private patients in the region, as well as providing additional capacity and specialist facilities for NHS patients'.

The scheme is a joint venture between the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Trust Foundation Trust and HCA Healthcare UK.

It will provide 138 beds including 72 for the NHS and 56 for private patients, while it will employ 150 people including 97 nurses.

A spokesman said: "The 14,728 sq m hospital will be equipped with the latest technology to provide some of the most complex surgical and medical procedures in cancer, cardiology, neurology, hepatobiliary, urology, orthopaedics and stem cell transplantation.

"The facility will include 66 beds dedicated to private patient care, which will be owned and run by HCA UK, in addition to 72 NHS beds, a new radiotherapy unit and state-of-the-art operating theatres."

The scheme, which has been designed by global design firm HOK, will be built by VINCI Construction UK.

Construction is expected to both start and be finished by 2020.

# Royal wedding event at centre

A SHOPPING centre in the region is inviting people to celebrate the Royal wedding with a Royal tea party.

The Saddlers Shopping Centre is bringing Windsor to Walsall on May 19 with a special party to mark the occasion.

From 11am until 4pm, families are invited to come down and create their very own Royal cupcake, take a selfie with a cut out of the royals and watch the wedding live.

Melvin Glasby, centre manager, said: "We all love Harry and the royals, and we are delighted to be able to welcome residents into the centre to enjoy what promises to be a fantastic day. We want to send this invitation to everyone who lives in Walsall and the surrounding areas."

For more information visit [www.saddlersshopping.co.uk](http://www.saddlersshopping.co.uk).

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# Driver who crashed into relative wins his freedom

A FATHER-OF-FIVE from the Black Country who left his father-in-law injured after crashing into him and dragging him along a road has been freed from prison by Appeal Court judges.

Navid Ghasanfer, aged 31, of Drancy Avenue, Willenhall, had been following the man, who was driving his daughter – Ghasanfer's wife – back home in April last year.

Having spotted him driving into Harden Road, Bloxwich, he crashed into the back of the car at a roundabout and then into the man when he got out to inspect the damage.

The father-in-law was pinned to the vehicle and dragged along in an ordeal so traumatic he was left needing therapy for a stammer afterwards. Ghasanfer admitted causing bodily harm by wanton and furious driving and was jailed for 15 months at Wolverhampton Crown Court in February. But he was granted his freedom when three top judges cut his sentence to 10 months and suspended it.

The court heard Ghasanfer and his wife had been arguing via text message during the day. But the appeal judge said: "Sentence on that factual basis would only be appropriate if he had pleaded guilty to attempted GBH, which he had not." He and his wife have reconciled since the offence last year, the judges were told.

# Bishop joining in with walk

A CITY bishop will be joining fellow fundraisers when he takes part in a sponsored walk. The Rt Rev Clive Gregory, the Bishop of Wolverhampton, will be at Northcote Farm and County Park, in Bushbury, on May 19.

The event forms part of the nationwide Christian Aid Week, which raised £2,500 on Wolverhampton alone when it was held last year. Proceeds of this year's appeal will go to helping people in Haiti. For further information about the walk and how to take part, call Roger Poole, chairman of the Wolverhampton Christian Aid Committee, on 01902 730507.

For more details about Christian Aid Week, go to the website, christianaidthe.org.uk

# Cheshire ramble

THE Walsall Group of the Ramblers head to Lamaload Reservoir, near Macclesfield for a seven mile circular walk on Sunday, for a moderately strenuous walk in East Cheshire, hilly at first but with a superb ending

Non-members are always welcome and can obtain more information from the walk leader on 01543 321770.

# Terrific teacher raises charity cash



Jacqueline Bradbury with pupils

A SUPER Staffordshire school teacher has raised £4,500 for a charity supporting young people battling cancer.

Jacqueline Bradbury, from Chase Terrace Primary school in Burntwood, smashed her target of £2,000 by organising a sponsored run for students and by running in the London Marathon herself.

It is the first time she has run a marathon as she has only ever done half marathons in the past and said she is 'overwhelmed' with the support she has received.

The charity she has raised the

money for, CLIC Sargent, provides specialist support for children, young people and their families.

She said: "I've been entering the ballot for years to get a place at the London Marathon, but with no luck."

"When I decided to go down the route of getting a charity place, I decided to focus on something that helps children."

"Thankfully my three are healthy, but I cannot imagine how difficult it must be for families whose children are ill."

"This way, I get to do something

I've always wanted to do, and a really good cause gets some much needed funds."

"I feel totally overwhelmed with the support from the parents and children at Chase Terrace."

"Thanks to our fantastic children, I have smashed my target raising a total of £4,500 so far."

"Thank you so much for all of your hard work, donations and good wishes."

Donations can still be made at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jacqueline-bradbury1](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jacqueline-bradbury1)

# Joy for Karen who's half woman she used to be

A DETERMINED woman has transformed her life and tackled her health problems after losing nearly half her body weight.

Karen Green, from Cheslyn Hay, was a practising nurse who weighed 23-and-a-half stone when she began to recognise the symptoms of Type 2 Diabetes on herself.

As a medical professional she was fully aware of the risk to her health, which gave her the motivation to make a lifestyle change in October 2015.

"I thought, 'Get your life sorted, Karen,'" she said. Karen, aged 53, who describes herself as a "foodie", enjoyed baking and cooking from scratch, as well as the odd glass of wine.

"I would come in after a busy shift and enjoy a glass of wine or two, or four," she said.

"I'm a good cook and I enjoyed rich foods with butter and cream. I over-indulged in carbs."

However, now working as an adult nursing lecturer at Wolverhampton University, she has swapped unhealthy foods for fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as lean protein.

## Pleased

Consequently, mother of two Karen has lost 10 stone in weight and has dropped from a size 30 to a size 14. Better still, she is no longer diabetic and has come off nearly all her medication.

Karen said: "I feel really proud. People are really pleased for me. I'm really grateful for the support of everyone along the way."

Now a regular gym attendee, thanks to her transformation Karen is not always recognised by her students and friends. "They just walk past me, they are amazed," she said.

"Before I would never have taken the stairs. Now I never take the lift."

Karen's weight loss even inspired her to take on the challenge of a 5K run with colleagues as part of a New Year's resolution.

Fittingly, she completed the run on April 22 during Diabetes Prevention week.

The run, along with a coffee morning, has raised more than £4,000 for The Stroke Association.

She said: "One of my colleagues, her dad had a stroke last year – we did it because of him."

"He survived and is doing really well."



Karen Green, seen above left, before she lost weight and right, now a regular down the gym

# Pothole claims cost council coffers £45k

SANDWELL council has paid out more than £45,000 in pothole compensation claims in the past three years, according to new figures.

It has stumped up a combined £46,764.65 since 2015-16 in compensation. Figures revealed under an FOI request have

found the biggest single pay-out was £6,946.00 after an incident in Beechfield Road, Smethwick.

The second highest compensation sum was £6,798.00 after damage caused by a pothole in The Broadway, West Bromwich.

However, figures show the level of pay-outs has declined

in the three-year period. The authority paid out £35,193.89 in compensation in 2015-16, £7,619.02 in 2016-17 and £3,951.80 in 2017-18.

And bosses have plans to spend nearly £500,000 to tackle the borough's potholes after the winter's freezing conditions.

# Top cop drama to return – Jed

POPULAR crime drama Line of Duty is back on the beat, its Staffordshire-born writer has revealed.

Jed Mercurio, who grew up in Cannock, made a quick trip to Ireland as he prepared to get the cameras rolling for the fifth series of the show.

The BBC police drama – which saw 7.5 million viewers tune in to the final episode of the fourth series last year – has been lined up for a further two series. Tweeting on Thursday, Mercurio said: "A flying visit to Belfast as the earliest stages of Line of Duty Series 5 take shape." Mercurio trained in medicine at Birmingham University and enlisted as a pilot at RAF Cosford.

# Summit due on football needs

A COUNCILLOR has arranged a football summit to discuss the need for "much-needed" facilities in a village.

Councillor David Clift has organised the meeting for both adult and junior football teams in Essington, which will take place today, Thursday.

He said: "I have called the Summit so that all the clubs can come together to discuss much need facilities in Essington."

The meeting will take place at Walsall Football Club's training ground at Broad Lane. Please contact Councillor Clift on 07930394399.

# Class act with reunion on way

FORMER classmates are to get together again – 40 years since leaving school.

The reunion is for the class of 1978 of Sheffield Comprehensive (Mob Lane). It will be the first time since leaving the school that a reunion has been held. It takes place on June 16 at the Boathouse, Park Road, Rushall, from 7pm.

Partners are welcome and anyone attending is asked to bring any old school photos. Contact Denise Lines on [nesie61@gmail.com](mailto:nesie61@gmail.com) for further information.

# Toy fair back on track at centre

COLLECTOR'S toy cars, action figures, Lego and more will be on display at an upcoming fair.

The Walsall Wood Toy and Train Fair is being held from 10.30am to 3pm on May 19 at the Oak Park Active Living Centre, Coppice Road, Walsall Wood.

Traders will also be looking to buy unwanted toys. Admission to the event is £1.80 for adults and £1 for children with on-site car parking.

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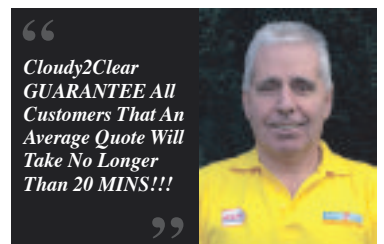
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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# New MOT may soon drive up the cost

IS your car due for an MOT soon? You might want to consider very carefully where you take it, following new changes to the test coming into force this month.

The EU Roadworthiness Package – didn't you just know it would come from the EU? – means that from May 20, it will be illegal to drive a car on the road if it has a fault deemed "dangerous" by the MOT inspector.

At face value, this might sound fair enough. After all, who would want to drive a "dangerous" car? And of course, driving an unroadworthy vehicle is an offence regardless of whether it has an MOT or not, so what is the problem?

The problem is who decides what is "dangerous" and what is not. And, of course, it is the inspector who has a vested interest in making sure the repairs are carried out at his garage.

The changes mean an end to booking the car in a month before the certificate expires, and shopping around for the best price for repairs if it fails. And, of course, getting a second opinion if you think the garage is trying it on.

OK, in theory you can arrange to have your car taken away on a trailer if you are not happy with the price given, but that costs a fortune too. And who has got the time to mess about with that?

In future, you had better hope the tester you take your car to is on the level. Because between them, the EU and our government have effectively given cowboy garages carte blanche to impound your car until you have coughed up what they consider a fair price for the repairs.

□ □ □

MORE bleak news for the high street, as House of Fraser reveals it is planning store closures, with Beatties in Wolverhampton potentially at risk.

Is nothing safe? Who would have imagined 20 years ago that there could be a West Midlands without Beatties?

In truth, the chain has been in decline for years, the takeover by House of Fraser a disaster from day one. The decision to rebrand most of its stores, saying the Beatties name "lacked resonance" showed how little the new owners understood the shop or its customers.

The Wolverhampton shop is now the only one to retain this famous old name, and we must all hope that it is not affected.

Retail brands come, retail brands go. But Beatties is a piece of our heritage we can't allow to die.

## Sajid Javid has never underplayed his father's old job



Sajid Javid – the new Home Secretary talks of his humble beginnings



Phil Bateman – warns us to lock car doors after some scally opened his rear door



Jurgen Klopp – declares he has this helping syndrome and really cares about people

# Is he driving home a certain message?

A LITTLE test for journalists everywhere. Write a short piece about the new Home Secretary Sajid Javid and his humble beginnings without using the words "bus driver." Dammit, that's me out. There are, at the time of writing, no fewer than 26,400 Google results for the search "Sajid Javid" and "bus driver." Javid has never knowingly underplayed his father's old job. Yet back in the 1960s, when most folk considered themselves working class, a bus driver got a decent wage, steady work, union protection and a proper pension. There were many worse starts in life.

HERE'S a prediction for Javid's time at the Home Office. Expect to see the term "illegal immigration" dropped. The kindly "irregular immigration" is taking over. So that boatload of blokes slipping ashore and breaking every migration law in the process, are not really illegal, just a wee bit irregular.

SAINSBURY'S has recalled some of its own-brand cat food because it may contain too much vitamin D, which can be harmful to cats. One of the symptoms of excess vitamin D is lethargy. A reader asks: "How do you diagnose lethargy in a cat?"

IF the EU referendum, the greatest exercise in democracy in British history, had resulted in victory for Remain in 2016, I believe we Brexiters would have quietly thrown in the towel. We may have no desire to be part of the Great European Empire but, hey, that's democracy. But that was two years ago and since then we have seen a

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



sinister, anti-democratic gathering of dark forces hell-bent on wrecking the Brexit process. If they were to win at the final furlong and frustrate the wishes of 17.4 million Brits, can anyone see the anti-EU side gracefully accepting defeat?

TO be the loser in a fair vote is one thing. To be defeated after the vote by a cabal of the rich, powerful and self-important is beyond endurance. Have the plotters really thought it through? Those who are today gleefully hoping to overrule the Referendum may find themselves trying to govern a country which will not only be ungovernable but will become the rallying point for other dissenting EU nations. The EU-zealots don't seem to understand that the best hope of holding the EU together is to let Britain go. If not, dear Brussels, we will be the thorn in your side.

BEING born without a trace of the football gene, I tend to steer well clear of the subject. But my eye was caught by an interview in which the Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp declared: "I have this helping syndrome. I really care about people." Maybe this is normal in his native Germany but somehow I can't imagine an English manager coming out with that sort of self-analysis. It is rare to hear the Brits singing

their own praises which is why such incidents stick in the mind. I recall a lady some time ago who informed me: "As you know, Peter, I am a very spiritual person," and went on to tell me she'd just spent several thousand pounds buying a cherished number plate for her car.

THE more we learn, the more it seems the Windrush scandal was a failing not only of ministers and civil servants but of ordinary MPs. The only justification for having 650 hugely expensive MPs is that they are supposed to be the eyes and ears of Parliament, embedded in their constituencies and on the lookout for grassroots unhappiness and injustice. So where were they? The Windrush scandal was brewing for years. If only a few MPs had found out what was happening, discussed it with their colleagues and realised this was a national scandal brewing, who knows how much stress and loss might have been avoided? MPs are paid a basic £76,000. On this showing, how many were worth a penny?

WOLVERHAMPTON councillor Phil Bateman warns us to lock our car doors after some scally opened his rear door at traffic lights. This sounds like an attempted robbery, but you never know. Some years ago, driving through London at night and hopelessly lost in torrential rain, I pulled in to the kerb to consult the map. The door was yanked open and a huge, drenched Rastafarian was suddenly beside me in the passenger seat. He said: "Thank God you stopped for me, man. I'm soaking here." Apparently he'd been thumbing a lift. I drove him home.

TALKING POINT



# Now it's time to rebuild our civic pride

SOMEONE once told me that if you walked around Wolverhampton with your eyes raised you realised what a beautiful city it was... and maybe can be again.

OK, beautiful may be pushing it a little but many city centre buildings which at street level have generic branded shop fittings are, when you look up, rather impressive.

Often these are Victorian edifices, reflecting a kind of civic pride that fell out of fashion in the rush to modernism that blighted the 1960s.

Old timers will tell you that Wolverhampton never really recovered from losing its shopping arcades, which remain an asset for London, Birmingham and Manchester.

The demolition of the city's old bus depot revealed the Roman Doric splendour of the Royal Hospital, the work of Wolverhampton architect Edward Banks, opened in 1846 as South Staffordshire General Hospital. Only a philistine would throw something up to block that view again.

It's a shame it has so far been beyond the wit of any developer to find a way to retain Wolverhampton and Midland Counties Eye Infirmary, which has stood in Chapel Ash since 1888.

The work of another Wolverhampton architect, Thomas Henry Fleeming, who also built the imposing Barclays Bank on Queen Square, there is probably no way back from the eye hospital dereliction that has rotted this landmark.

James Morgan's 1820s-built St George's Church suffered great indignity, having a ghastly Sainsbury's store grafted onto its late Georgian elegance. The conversion of a place of worship into a temple of consumerism then seemed an indictment of shallow times.

Times have changed. The convenience and cheapness of shopping on the internet means we now run the risk of seeing town centres filled with boarded-up stores punctuated by coffee shops, burger joints, bookmakers and charity shops.

What will Wolverhampton gain if the shiny new Debenhams store survives but it loses Beatties, the city's flagship department store. Its refined 1920s art deco style still adds a touch of class.

Many of these buildings have some sort of protection but they need to find a role for the 21st century. They must not be lost and they should never be hidden. We should be building with our past and not building over it or covering it up. Time to regain that civic pride.

LEON BURAKOWSKI

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# Windrush scandal indignation

I'VE just picked myself up off the floor after reading a letter from Keith Parton with which I almost totally agree.

I admire his affection for his former colleagues from the Commonwealth and his indignation at the appalling treatment of the 'Windrush generation'. It's a pity he can't resist the temptation to have a pop at the EU, because at least one EU country has a system in which this would have been

unlikely to happen. Martinique is as much a part of France as Alpes Maritimes or Nord-Pas de Calais. A Martinican is a French(wo)man. End of.

The Conservative Party has disgraced itself. Theresa May has mislaid her 'human shield' home secretary as the 'hostile environment' policy she engineered has exploded in her face, and she is left scrabbling for gestures like the establishment of a 'Stephen Law-

rence Day' to placate people from the Commonwealth.

The Government will pay out an undisclosed sum in compensation.

As a Labour Party member, I should have a grin from ear to ear, but, when this iniquitous policy went through Parliament, just six Labour MPs voted against it.

**ALAN T HARRISON**  
Walsall

## Motorist is awash with confusion

HAVE you ever been driving along and noticed you are really low on fuel and thought there's a filling station about half a mile ahead, then you arrive and find it has turned into a car wash or a block of retirement flats?

Of course you have. What is this strange phenomenon?

Whilst I had experienced this several times before, I had not given much thought to it. But I started to recount those experiences and realised how many filling stations had disappeared in my local area. How does this work?

There are surely ten times more cars on the road than when these filling stations were operative. I noticed cars queuing to be washed but when I finally filled up I was the only car on forecourt.

Perhaps we should consider a new equation to replace MPG, that being miles per gallon, for our younger readers. Now there should also be MPCGD; that's miles per car getting dirty.

**PHILIP POXTON**  
Brownhills

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Walsall Chronicle,  
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## Gratitude from driver who broke down outside club

I WOULD like to thank Pelsall Social Club, at the Fingerpost for their hospitality recently. My car, a black Peugeot estate, broke down outside their club, near to the traffic lights. I managed to get the car half off the road and put my hazards on and waited for the relay to arrive.

A driver in a silver car, leaving the club's car park sounded his horn, to point out I was 'blocking' the exit. Luckily for me the lights were on red so I approached his car and informed him I had broken down and if he wanted to push my car out of the way, feel free.

The second motorist, a woman in a pale blue 4x4, sounded her horn and shouted 'you are blocking the exit'. I told her I had broken down to which she shouted 'put your hazards on'. My hazards were on and I am afraid I retaliated as I was quite fraught. My car was only overlapping by about a foot, so what her problem was, heaven knows and dozens of cars passed me without any problem. Thank you to the club, who made me a cup of tea and let me wait inside. To the two motorists, I wasn't parked there for fun and neither offered any help, just abuse.

**CAROL ROBERTS**  
Great Wyrley

## Call to back speeding campaign

STOP The Speeders needs our support. We must start today on a timetable of action across The Black Country to re-introduce modern digital speed cameras. We have had a two-year pilot programme in Birmingham and Solihull. Now we need delivery in Walsall with local people helping decide our target roads.

How many people have died or been injured by speeding motorists? How many more families have to undergo the ordeal of that knock on the door to be informed that their son or daughter isn't coming back?

Let's have some urgency and action on speed cameras. Councils must not sit on capital funds when local people are being killed and maimed by speedsters. I challenge Walsall Council to publish a costed timetable of installation so we can hold them to account with the police on our public safety.

**CLLR DOUG JAMES**  
Walsall

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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# Tories prepare for a return to power

THERE was high drama at election counts as Walsall was left under no overall control – although the Tories increased their seats on both councils.

Meanwhile, Labour strengthened its grip on Wolverhampton and Sandwell, while UKIP was wiped out on the night, and now has just one councillor remaining on a Black Country local authority.

In Cannock Chase, Labour maintained a slim majority, ending the night with 21 out of 41 seats. Dudley was expected to be a gripping battle and the classic blue-red marginal did not disappoint.

The Conservatives are likely to continue to run the council having gained six seats – five of them from UKIP.

## Minority

In Walsall, the Tories were set to return to power with a minority administration. They won five seats – giving the party 30 overall out of 60 council seats – leaving them just one short of an overall majority.

The Conservatives made gains from UKIP, who lost all three of their councillors in the borough. Labour lost two of their seats taking them down to 26 councillors.

The party has been running the council as a minority administration under leader Sean Coughlan, but beaming Tory group leader Mike Bird said he was looking forward to returning to the box seat. "It's good to be back," he said.

"I am very pleased, I think it's been



Bal Chhatta celebrates winning Short Heath from UKIP



Labour leader Sean Coughlan

an exceptional night for the Conservative Party in Walsall and that's down to the hard work and effort that everyone has put in. The Brexit vote has had some effect here but the real effect is that people are disenchanted with two years of Labour. They've shown

their inexperience, lack of knowledge and vision.

"We've got 30 councillors, are the largest party now and should form an administration." Labour councillor Ian Robertson, said: "We don't have the numbers and mean it will be a Tory administration. We have tried and we will continue to try to do the best for the people of Walsall. This is their verdict and we have to accept it."

In Wolverhampton Labour maintained overall control with ease, gaining two seats on the night. Asha Mattu, the widow of the late mayor councillor Elias Mattu, successfully won his seat in Graiseley.

Mr Mattu died in February at the age of 59 following an illness. He had been councillor for Graiseley for almost 18 years.

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# 10 Growing Forest arts venue adds seats

The Chronicle Thursday, May 10, 2018

AN entertainment venue in the region has increased its capacity by adding more than 200 extra seats.

The Forest Arts Centre, in Walsall, has installed 220 new seats, taking its capacity from 500 to 720.

The venue also boasts cutting edge lighting, digital sound equipment and live video projection systems across three screens, making it one of the most technically-advanced performance spaces in the West Midlands.

Neil Johnson, the venue's manager, said: "We are absolutely delighted to be opening our doors to increased capacity inside the arena.

"The A3 has gone from strength to strength in a very short period of time and not only has a loyal following in the borough but has made quite a splash in the region and wider."

Mr Johnson hopes the increased capacity will help the venue continue to attract big name acts.

# Three-year lock-up for car thief, 20

**A 20-YEAR-OLD seen behind the wheel of three stolen cars – two of which had been taken from the same woman on successive days – has been locked up for three years.**

The victim was grabbed by an unknown assailant and dragged from her £20,000 Audi Q5 in Laburnum Road, Walsall Wood on January 13, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

After being hauled from the vehicle she clung onto the bodywork until ordered to let go by another man armed with a hammer and the pair of robbers drove off in convoy with another vehicle from which

two more of the gang had kept watch. Less than four hours later police saw Adam Humpage driving the stolen car in Lichfield Road, Bloxwich and gave chase after he refused to stop, explained Mr David Bennett, prosecuting.

**Abandoned**

The defendant reached speeds of 90 mph while careering through residential streets, forcing two other motorists into emergency stops to avoid 'catastrophic' crashes and losing his pursuers as he sped down Harden Road, Walsall.

The Audi was found abandoned nearby. The following day the victim's second car – a Vauxhall Zafira – was stolen after she parked in Spring Lane, Willenhall. A key

for it had been taken with the Audi, said Mr Bennett.

Less than 24 hours later three people escaped with a mobile phone, generator, cash, food and drink from a sandwich van at the Britannia Enterprise Park in Lichfield.

They fled in the stolen Zafira which was on false plates and was abandoned in Walsall Wood with the defendant's mobile phone lying alongside it.

Then on January 18 a police officer looking through briefing documents saw a photograph of Humpage and recognised him as the man he had seen driving the stolen Audi five days earlier.

Almost six weeks later police were alerted to a man acting suspiciously in a Ford Transit with false plates. Officers

chased and caught the vehicle which was being driven by the defendant and had been stolen 10 days earlier.

Mr Stephen Cadwaladr, defending, explained: "This was all done on impulse. He went on an offending spree while homeless and mentally ill."

Humpage, now of Wordsworth Road, Willenhall, who had previous convictions involving 24 offences, admitted three cases of handling stolen vehicles, dangerous driving and theft from the sandwich van.

He was ordered to be detained in a Young Offenders Institution and banned from driving for three years on release by Judge Barry Berlin, who told him: "Your driving on busy roads was appalling. It is a miracle that nobody was killed."

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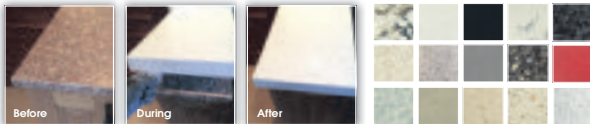
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# Flying high with troupe to offer all the fun of the circus at park

FIRE breathing, aerial performers and stunt riders have returned to Walsall for a second year.

Circus Funtasia also features wire walkers, jugglers, acrobats and more – with plenty of comedy thrown in.

The crew have returned to George Rose Park, on Wolverhampton Street, in Darlaston, and will be performing each day until their last show on Monday.

Marketing co-ordinator Rosie Clarke said: “The opening night was really good and we are expecting it to be a very busy Monday Bank Holiday because this is our best show yet.

“Last year was our first year in Darlaston and we had people queueing down the road so we are hoping for the same this year.

“We have the big wheel of death with four bikers and the lights will go off at one point. They are crazy, it will be amazing.”

Julio Nikolov and Tracy Jones founded Circus Funtasia in January 2013 and have both managed shows for 12 years.

Tickets cost £10 to £18 for children and £12 to £20 depending on seats. Visit [www.circusfun-tasia.co.uk](http://www.circusfun-tasia.co.uk) or call 07706168507.



Front, left to right, are Circus Funtasia members Felicia, Emilion, and Rosey, ready to perform at George Rose Park in Darlaston

# Nine out of 10 drivers say roads not up to scratch

NINE out of 10 drivers say the condition of UK roads has declined over the last decade, a new survey suggests.

The AA poll of 17,500 motorists also found that two-thirds (67 per cent) say roads have ‘considerably deteriorated’ in the past 10 years.

Some 42 per cent of drivers rated residential streets as ‘poor’ last month, compared with 34 per cent in March 2017.

A recent survey by the Asphalt Industry Alliance found that local authorities in England and Wales needed £9.3 billion to bring their roads up to scratch.

The harsh winter led to a spike in pothole-related breakdowns, such as damaged shock absorbers, broken suspension springs and distorted wheels.

AA president Edmund King said: “It is clear that despite all the talk from central and local government, not enough is being done to fix our increasingly dangerous streets.”

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling announced in March that councils would be given a further £100 million to tackle potholes and repair storm damage in England.



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## Nostalgia rules, as half in poll say home is from childhood

HOME is where the heart is, but for more than half of people in the West Midlands it's the house they grew up in - not where they live now. Researchers polled 2,000 UK adults about their 'true' home.

Almost four in 10 nationally said the place they grew up in was special because they were able to spend the most time together with their family and 54 per cent said they felt safer there.

The study, commissioned by leading door and window brand Origin, found 38 per cent

think their current home lacks the 'magic' of their childhood home. Almost one in 10 people living in the UK have even taken steps to make their current dwellings more like the home they grew up in - including replicating the decor and furnishings.

Ben Brocklesby, director at Origin, said: "Interestingly, our research has shown that it's the small details that stay with us and it is these little quirks that really make a house a 'true' home, even after we have moved on."

## Over-the-limit gran avoids jail

By Dayna Farrington

A GRANDMOTHER has avoided jail after being found over four times the drink-drive limit while looking after her young granddaughter.

The woman from Walsall, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was stopped in Bloxwich Active Living Centre car park on February 23.

Staff had raised the alarm that they had seen her intoxicated while looking after a young child under the age of seven. She was found to have 141 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath - over four times the limit. The legal limit 35 microgrammes.

The defendant had previously pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to being drunk in charge of a child under the age of seven years and driving a motor vehicle when alcohol level was above the limit. Rachael Smith, prosecuting, said she wasn't allowed in the centre due to being intoxicated and staff saw she had a young child with her.

She added: "Staff monitored her get-

ting back into her car and asked her if she had been drinking - she said no, but her granddaughter said she had been drinking vodka."

"Police arrived and asked her again if she had been drinking and this time she said yes - and again the granddaughter pointed out a bottle in her bag, which was gin and tonic. She was arrested at the scene."

Mr Simon Walton, defending, said: "There is a family history of addiction. She has always brought her granddaughter up to tell the truth. In all other respects she is a good, hard-working person."

At Walsall Magistrates Court on Wednesday District Judge David Webster gave her full credit for her early guilty plea and handed her a four-month jail sentence, suspended for 12 months. She was also banned from driving for three years and ordered to pay a fine of £400, a £115 victim surcharge and £185 in costs. She will also have to undertake 28 days of rehabilitation activities.

## Van in crash lands on side



Emergency personnel at the scene of the crash

A VAN ended up on its side following a serious crash in Walsall.

The vehicle came to rest on the pavement after the collision with a car at the junction of Dumblederry Lane and Station Road, Aldridge.

Two air ambulances touched down at the scene following the smash at around 3.25pm yesterday.

The van driver had to be cut free and debris was left scattered over the road and pavement.

The area was cordoned off as emergency services dealt with the incident.

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Murray McGregor said: "We sent two air ambulances, three land ambulances and two paramedic officers to the scene."

"It involved a car and a van. The van ended up on its side."

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# Failing E-ACT Academy is improving, says Ofsted

## Parrot tale to fly off shelves



Illustrator Soeli Thomas has published a new childrens book

AN illustrator-turned-author from the region has penned an educational picture book for toddlers.

Soeli Thomas, from Cheslyn Hay, has independently put together a story called Charlie the Parrot: Adventures in the jungle.

The story follows a mischievous parrot who escapes for six days into the wild. It is based on a true event from Soeli's childhood, when her brother Christopher's parrot escaped for six days. "It came about by thinking what he got up to," Soeli, aged 44, said. The mother of one added: "It's a sense of achievement creating a book and when children like it, it means more."

Soeli has previously designed books, but never written the words.

Work on the story began five years ago, but due to Soeli's work commitments it was put on hold until recently. However, now a full-time parent to her two-year-old daughter Mollie, Soeli found the time to finish the project.

"The reaction has been really good, I'm getting great feedback from people," she said.

The story has been designed with bright, bold illustrations and features a host of jungle animals to help toddlers learn the different sounds each creature makes. The book is available for £3.99 plus £1.01 postage at [www.soeli.co.uk/starbuy](http://www.soeli.co.uk/starbuy). It can also be purchased from Hoo Farm – the place where the real Christopher now lives.

A FAILING school where Ofsted inspectors were pelted with food is continuing to make good progress, according to education watchdogs.

Willenhall E-ACT Academy has addressed pupils' poor behaviour and is improving attendance, say inspectors, who visited the school again in March.

Last year, the school was placed into special measures following a damning inspection report. But a monitoring visit by Ofsted in March found improvements have been made. The school remains in special measures, but can now employ newly-qualified teachers.

The report found a continued stability of teachers at the school had led to improvements in teaching, with a 'positive climate for learning'. However, inspectors did say there was still variation in the impact of teaching, with some teachers not promptly challenging pupils whose attention has gone. The proportion of pupils persistently absent had reduced, said the report, but remains 'too high'.

### Rewards

And the number of pupils removed from lessons for behaviour has dropped, according to the inspectors, who praise a rewards system in place for students.

Inspector Rob Hackfath said: "Leaders and managers are taking effective action towards the removal of special measures."

The school, in Furzebank Way, which has more than 1,300 pupils, was ranked inadequate by Ofsted across the board following the inspection last May. It found a third of pupils from Years 7 to 11 were persistently absent and students felt unsafe due to repeated poor behaviour.

Ofsted inspectors were pelted with food during the inspection visit. The academy was previously rated as 'requires improvement' in 2015.

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# Bad image blamed for vacant apprentice roles

**MORE than 100 apprenticeships for top engineering jobs are sitting vacant in the Black Country, raising fears that manufacturing still has a poor image at schools.**

One of the West Midlands' leading training providers believes recent growth in the industry could be hampered unless more people can be persuaded to take up vacant apprenticeship opportunities.

Gareth Jones, joint managing director at In-Comm Training in Walsall, says his firm has more than 100 positions – all attached to high value engineering jobs – that are available immediately, but there seems to be a reluctance to come forward and take advantage of them.

He puts this down to engineering and manufacturing still suffering from negative perceptions in schools.

"Companies are coming forward and saying they want to invest in apprentices. We now need to make sure that, as a country, we've got a pipeline of young people or more mature learners to fill them," explained Gareth, who runs the business with his sister Bekki Phillips.

"At the moment we have 100 positions vacant at our Aldridge academy alone and these are for full/part-time

trailblazer courses with a job at a local manufacturer at the end of it. This means you can learn from the best trainers, on the best equipment and get paid for it, with the option of going on to do a degree at the end – all without the associated debt that can go with it. This is a £100,000 opportunity."

He added: "There is still a percep-



In-Comm can provide training for up to 1,000 apprentices a year

tion that industry isn't a great career to go into and, whilst we are changing that, we need to do more to paint a picture of what modern day manufacturing is like.

"It's robotics, it's CAD/CAM systems, it's precision CNC machines, it's playing a role in making sure F1 cars get faster, aeroplanes are lighter, people can walk again – all played out in

bright factories and with great earning potential. That's the message we need to get across."

Current vacancies range from apprenticeships in machining and mechatronics to electro-technical, technical support, quality, product design, tool making, welding and manufacturing operatives. For further information, visit [www.in-comm.co.uk](http://www.in-comm.co.uk).

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# Grade II listed Highgate brewery put up for sale

**THE HISTORIC** Highgate Brewery has been put up for sale for almost £1 million – raising hopes the site could finally be brought back into use.

The Grade II listed brewery in Walsall is being advertised for sale with a guide price of £975,000.

The derelict building has previously failed to sell at auctions, leading to previous concerns it could be a target for arsonists.

The brewery in Sandymount Road was launched in 1898 by James Fletcher to produce the famous Black Country brew Highgate Dark Mild for workers in the town's leather industry.

## Jobs

At its peak it employed 65 and was producing 100,000 barrels a year and providing its beer to more than 400 pubs and clubs across the West Midlands.

But it closed in June 2010, with the loss of 22 jobs, and failed to sell at an auction two years later.

It went under the hammer again with a £850,000 guide price in 2014.

The 3,103 sq m site is just off the A34 Birmingham Road, within walking distance of Walsall town centre.

It is five storey building with a number of older buildings at the front of the site.

Further buildings include a single storey bar and marketing suite, a two-storey office building as well as a further brick-built building.

Walsall Council produced a report three years ago saying the site faced being turned into housing if no businesses took over.



The entrance to the brewery site in Sandymount Road, Walsall

## Peaky pirouettes on way

A BALLET based on the hit gangster show Peaky Blinders could soon take to the stage. Creator Steven Knight revealed he is in talks about a dance version of the show.

It comes after the Rambert dance company approached the Oscar-nominated screenwriter about a remake of the crime drama. The writer said: "I had a meeting with Ballet Rambert who want to do Peaky Blinders – The

Ballet. I'm saying 'why not?' Knight, who is currently writing season five of Peaky Blinders, said he also plans on pulling together three more series.

He wants to lobby the BBC to film more of the show, based on the Shelby family, in his home city. Knight added: "We are definitely doing [series] six and we will probably do seven. After series four it went mad. We've talked to Cillian Murphy and he's all for it."



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# Alarm over missed out screening invitations

**TWO hospital trusts in the West Midlands raised concerns about breast cancer screening invitations last year but were told it was a local issue, it has been claimed.**

Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt revealed on Wednesday that 450,000 women aged 68 to 71 had not been invited to their final routine screening.

An independent review has been launched into the computer error, which Mr Hunt said was discovered in January and dates back to 2009.

However, as early as March 2017, two breast cancer screening centres in West Midlands, as well as one in London, raised concerns some women were not being invited for mammograms. It has not been disclosed which hospitals the centres are at.

Software provider Hitachi Consulting said at the time it was a local problem and the full scale of the issue was not realised until January. Public Health England (PHE) said.

The company has denied it is responsible for the blunder, which Mr Hunt

**By Alex Ross**

said may have led up to 270 women to have their lives cut short.

A spokesman said: "Hitachi Consulting has no responsibility for the error that has led to this situation."

"The software responsible for inviting patients for breast cancer screening was written by others and implemented in 2009, fully six years before Hitachi Consulting began working with Public Health England."

"Hitachi Consulting was engaged in late 2015 merely to maintain and support the system as designed, and has had no responsibility for decisions made on which patients should be selected for screening."

## Hamster soldiers on after blaze rescue



**The hamster, renamed the Winter Soldier is alive and well after a house fire in Bilston**

**FIREFIGHTERS** gave life-saving oxygen to a tiny hamster after a blaze at a Black Country home caused the creature to pass out. Crews were called to a home in Skidmore Avenue in Bradmore, Bilston, at about 5.10am on Friday morning after reports of a fire.

It had started in one of the bedrooms at the back of the house, but chiefs are not sure of the cause at this stage. Everyone in the house had evacuated once fire engines arrived, with a total of eight firefighters on hand to battle the flames.

But crew members were quickly alerted to the family hamster, who had been left inside.

The little animal was rescued and firefighters used pet oxygen equipment, called Smokey Paws, to resuscitate it.

Wolverhampton Police sent a message out on Twitter sharing the news the hamster had been rescued. Officers said: "Green Watch attended a bedroom fire this morning,

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# RBS to axe hundreds of jobs in branch closures

A FRESH wave of closures will almost wipe out the Royal Bank of Scotland across the Black Country and Staffordshire.

Branches in Walsall, Stafford and Kidderminster are among 162 in England and Wales that will start shutting in August, with the loss of nearly 800 jobs.

Outlets in Telford, Shrewsbury, Edgbaston and Sutton Coldfield are to go as well, leaving just Wolverhampton and Birmingham city centre with RBS branches. The move will close more than half of the RBS branches south of the Scottish border, leaving just 105.

The lender, still 72 per cent owned by the taxpayer, said the move was linked to it not having to sell its Williams & Glyn business.

As a result, the group has branches close to each other – including its NatWest banks – and is seeking to reduce overlap.

## Voluntary

NatWest has many more sites in England and Wales – 650, including local branches at Wolverhampton, Fordhouses, Bilston, Wednesfield, Dudley, Merry Hill, Kingswinford, Walsall, Aldridge, West Bromwich, Cannock and two in Stafford.

RBS said: "Following a review of the branch network in England and Wales a decision has been taken to close 162 Royal Bank of Scotland branches. As a result of this process, around 792 roles will be made redundant, and we will seek to support our colleagues with the option to leave on a voluntary basis."

It comes less than six months since the last round of RBS closures was announced, shutting 259 of its 1,003 branches – 62 Royal Bank of Scotland



The RBS branch in Lichfield Street, Walsall will close its doors in August

and 197 NatWest. RBS had been told to sell off its Williams & Glyn business to meet state aid rules following its £45 billion Government bailout at the height of the financial crisis. But RBS could never find a buyer and is now folding it back into its core business.

An RBS spokesman said: "We are no longer launching Williams & Glyn as a challenger bank, and we now have two branch networks operating in close proximity to each other; NatWest and Royal Bank of Scotland, in England and Wales."

"As a result we have had to review our overall branch footprint in England and Wales and we've made the

difficult decision to close a number of Royal Bank of Scotland branches.

"Customers of Royal Bank of Scotland in England and Wales will be able to use NatWest branches instead for their everyday banking needs."

The chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), Staffordshire businessman Mike Cherry, said: "It's thoroughly disappointing to see RBS using the failed sale of Williams & Glyn as an excuse to further decimate the UK's bank branch network."

"This fresh round of closures will hurt high streets all over the country at a time when thousands of small firms are already struggling."

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## 18 Mental health on agenda at free meeting

The Chronicle Thursday, May 10, 2018

THURSFIELDS Solicitors and Swedish bank Handelsbanken are helping to promote Mental Health Awareness Week. The companies, which both have branches in the Black Country, have organised a free breakfast meeting for young professionals in Stourbridge from 8.30am, next Friday.

Shauna Halls, a trainee solicitor in Thursfields' corporate and commercial team, said: "We want to help de-stigmatise the subject of mental health and how this can affect people at work via stress."

The guest speaker at the event will be Mark Evans, marketing officer of local mental health charity Dudley Mind. The event takes place in Dudley Mind's Food For Thought Cafe in the Carlisle Centre, Victoria Street. To book, visit eventbrite.co.uk/e/handelsbanken-and-thursfields-young-professionals-breakfast-networking-event-tickets-45519849094.

Mental Health Awareness Week runs from May 14 to 20 and will focus on how everyone can address the causes of work-related stress.

# Future of new Sainsbury's store remains uncertain following six years of delays

**SUPERMARKET giant Sainsbury's is remaining tight-lipped over a six-year saga for a planned new store – with concerns rising that the land is becoming an eyesore.**

Mystery surrounds the future of the major project coming in days after proposals for Sainsbury's merger with Asda were unveiled.

The grocery chain has planned to redevelop old industrial land on Old Walsall Road in Hamstead, Great Barr, for a store creating 200 jobs.

But its future was uncertain after Sainsbury's revealed in 2015 that the plans were under review due to 'significant change' in the grocery market.

Councillor Gurdial Singh Atwal says people have grown increasingly concerned by the lack of action. "They



The derelict structures in place at the site

[Sainsbury's] promised they would open and help the local community by creating jobs but unfortunately they have been unable to do that," he said. "We would like it to be built. But if

not we would like there to be some sort of development on there.

"We do not want to see it become an eyesore and be left boarded up. At the moment it is a mystery."



An artist's impression of the proposed new store

A Sainsbury's spokeswoman said: "The project is still under review and no decision has been taken at this stage." Plans first surfaced for the supermarket back in 2012 with a con-

sultation held for residents. Approval was granted in 2013 by Birmingham City Council and the authority says planning permission has been subsequently extended past the normal three-year time limit.

The site was once occupied by car parts manufacturer GKN Driveline. The former factory closed in 2009. Bosses at the time said it would cost £1.5 million to keep the factory up to date.

The supermarket plans faced opposition from some councillors who said the authority would be forfeiting good industrial land.

Sainsbury's successfully purchased the land for the store in January 2014, paving the way for the demolition work last summer.

The 30,665 sq ft supermarket would create around 200 new full and part time jobs.

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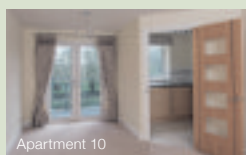
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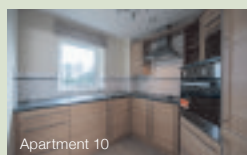
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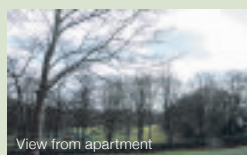
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# Feeling like the first time for Foreigner

Juke box heroes – rockers Foreigner are heading to Brum



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**T**hey've sold more than 80 million records. And their biggest hit single, I Want To Know What Love Is, gave them a number one hit in the US, UK and around the world.

Now Foreigner are back with a headline tour that will reflect on their remarkable rock legacy.

The band will perform at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Tuesday, with special guests Joanne Shaw Taylor and John Parr.

It will be a true homecoming for founding member and lead guitarist, Mick Jones, who hails from the UK and formed the band in New York City in 1976 alongside fellow Briton and ex-King Crimson member Ian McDonald, along with American vocalist Lou Gramm.

Fans will see why it Feels Like The First Time as their performances include their unforgettable anthems I Want To Know What Love Is, Juke Box Hero, Waiting For A Girl Like You, Cold As Ice, Feels Like The First Time, Hot Blooded, Urgent and That Was Yesterday.

Mick says he was thrilled that the band was still together and playing live. "I never could have imagined when I set out to create Foreigner 40 years ago, that we'd still be touring around the world and performing the music we love all these years later. I can't express the gratitude I feel when fans share stories of how our songs have been woven into their milestones and memories over the years."

His band have enjoyed ten multi-platinum albums and 16 top 30 hits. They remain one of the most popular rock acts in the world and are responsible for some of rock and roll's most enduring songs.

The band recently released a new 10-inch vinyl four-track EP The Flame Still Burns and the celebrations will continue with the release of a 20-track album 40 this month, which contains the band's biggest hits.

That will be followed a week later by a double album of the same name, tracing the four-decade-long history. The May 19 release will contain new songs as well as all of the much-loved hits. A vinyl version is coming on June 2.

Foreigner are Mick Jones (lead guitar), Kelly Hansen (lead vocals), Jeff Pilson (bass, vocals), Tom Gimbel (rhythm guitar, sax, vocals), Michael Bluestein (keyboards), Bruce Watson (guitar) and Chris Frazier (drums).

Mick had enjoyed an interesting career before former Foreigner and didn't intend for it to be a band that lasted four decades.

"Well, I had a pretty interesting career up until then. Which had led me to France, [where] I got to play with a lot of musicians who were coming in and out of Paris, and did sessions with quite a few people, and started to learn a little about writing. And it was the time of The Beatles, so obviously everybody was trying to write songs [like The Beatles]. I was learning the songs just to educate myself, really, as to chord structures and melodies.

## MECCA

"But what led me to forming a band eventually – my own band – is that I had been in a couple of bands. I went back to England, and finally started [playing] again in my mid-20s, and my dream was always to come over to the USA. From an early age, y'know, America represented this mecca. And gradually, I started to increase my focus on writing, alongside playing with a band called Spooky Tooth.

I played in a band with the guitar player Leslie West [of Mountain] for a while. Unfortunately all those things sort of came to a fizzle, and I was kind of left high and dry in New York for a while, not really knowing what to do... I decided it was time to make a decision. Either I make a stand, or I let the water wash over me.

"So that led to me just starting writing, really. Just sitting down all day, just trying to get some flow going,

*It was the dawn of punk... what I was doing was the exact opposite*

trying to write some stuff that I would be comfortable with. Not pandering to any particular style or commercial style. And that was sort of the code I had.

"Even though some of our music may be regarded as poppy, I think the basis of it has always been rock, and infusions of soul here and there. I didn't really know where we fit, actually... there were a few older bands in those days, too. But there wasn't a new scene for bands like mine. It was the dawn of punk and new wave, so [what I was doing] was the exact opposite."

Mick knew that he was onto something special when the band recorded I Want To Know What Love Is.

"I did. I knew it was going to be special. The thing was how to keep it out of the traditional pop-rock ballad thing, with playing guitars and stuff like that. Plus apart from the little 'ding-ding-ding' riff, which was a synthesizer, pretty much everything else on there was acoustic. No electric guitar. Which wasn't a purposeful thing, but as the song progressed, I took a lot of pains in holding back any ideas about augmenting it with unnecessary frill."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

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The Slow Readers Club



## Read all about it as band's slow rise to top continues

MANCHESTER band The Slow Readers Club are bringing their soaring indie rock anthems to Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms next week, following the release of their third album, *Build A Tower*.

The quartet, who have drawn comparisons with The Killers, Interpol and The National, will be playing the Broad Street venue on Thursday, May 17, as they prepare for various festival dates this summer.

The group's brooding electro sound has taken on epic proportions with *Build A Tower* as tracks such as *You Opened Up My Heart*, *Lives Never Known* and *Distant Memory* are likely to attract new fans.

It is the band's first album with the Modern Sky label,

following the release of their self-titled debut album in 2011 and *Cavalcade* in 2015.

Of *Build A Tower*, released last Friday, the band say: "We're really proud of the record as we've learned a lot since our last, self-released, album."

"*Build A Tower* feels like a big step up. Even though fans have heard a couple of the tracks played on the last tour, there's a lot we've been holding back until they had the album in their hands, so we're also looking forward to getting out and playing live."

Fronted by singer Aaron Starkie, The Slow Readers Club features his brother Kurtis (guitar), James Ryan (bass) and David Whitworth (drums). In recent times they supported James on an arena tour and in their own right sold out Manchester's 2,000 seat Albert Hall.

## Ooh Betty, Frank has turned into Joe



Comedy star Joe Pasquale takes on one of British TV's favourite comic roles when he plays accident-prone Frank Spencer in the first stage production of *Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em*.

The squeaky-voiced funnyman will be stepping into the shoes (or should that be rollerskates) of Michael Crawford, who found fame in the classic TV sit-com during the 1970s.

The UK tour comes to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, May 19.

Joe is no stranger to the Grand having visited several times during 20 years of stand-up tours.

In the play the long-suffering wife of Frank, Betty, will be played by Sarah Earnshaw. His mother-in-law, Mrs Fisher, is played by Susie Blake, whose credits include *Coronation Street* and *Mrs Brown's Boys*, as well as being one of Victoria Wood's *As Seen on TV* ensemble.

The stage adaptation has been written by Guy Unsworth, who also directs, and is based on the original TV series by Raymond Allen. The set by Simon Higlett apparently reflects Frank's enthusiastic

rather than accomplished attempts at home DIY.

Other theatre highlights over the coming week include Agatha Christie thriller *Love from a Stranger* at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham from Tuesday to Saturday. Frank Vosper's rewrite of the Christie psychological thriller has been moved to the 1950s by director Lucy Bailey and is the story of a whirlwind romance that turns sinister. A group of 40something ladies aim to meet their idols in new musical *The Band*, featuring the music of *Take That*, at Birmingham Hippodrome until Saturday.

## Just happy to get out of the house

TV comic Chris Ramsey is bringing his new tour show to the Black Country.

The popular Geordie will be stopping off at Dudley Town Hall next Friday, May 18, with his *The Just Happy To Get Out Of The House Tour*. Ramsey has appeared on *Live At The Apollo*, *The John Bishop Show*, *Celebrity Juice*, *Never Mind The Buzzcocks* and *8 Out of 10 Cats*. He also hosts *The Chris Ramsey Show* on Comedy Central. Tickets cost £20 plus booking fees from [www.boroughhalls.co.uk](http://www.boroughhalls.co.uk) or on 01384 812812.



## Exploring anxiety, sex and music at the Rep

The tempestuous relationship between sex, anxiety and music is explored in a new production from one of Europe's top theatre directors, Calixto Bieito. *The String Quartet's Guide to Sex and Anxiety* will receive its world premiere at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Saturday to Saturday (May 12-19) before embarking on an international tour. The production features four actors - including Band of Gold's Cathy Tyson and Miltos Yerolemos from *Game of Thrones* - alongside award-winning musicians The Heath Quartet performing music by Beethoven. Calixto Bieito said: "The String Quartet's Guide to Sex and Anxiety is like a symphonic poem for a quartet of musicians, and a quartet of voices. It will consider the human condition today, and where anxiety and depression stem from." See [birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://birmingham-rep.co.uk)



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## FORTHCOMING ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday 12th May	Friday 18th May	Saturday 19th May	Friday 25th May	Saturday 26th May
 Donna Keen	Open Mic with Stevie Gee	 Ivan Male Vocalist	 Starburst Duo	

Every Thursday - City Limits Group 50s, 60s, 70s & 80s

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## Afternoon Tea

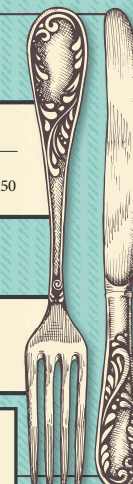
Monday - Friday 2:30pm - 5pm Saturday 12noon - 5pm

Afternoon Tea - £18.95 Gentlemen's Afternoon Tea - £18.95  
Guilt-Free Afternoon Tea - £22.95 Celebration Afternoon Tea - £26.50

## Set Lunch Menu

Monday - Friday	12noon - 2:30pm
Saturday	12noon - 5pm
2 courses - £12.95	3 courses - £15.45

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CHOICE



Graham Norton

**Eurovision Song Contest 2018 (BBC1, 8pm)**  
Graham Norton returns to the commentary box to cover all the action from tonight's Grand Final, live from the Altice Arena in Lisbon, following Portugal's triumph last year. Salvador Sobral ended his nation's 53-year wait for a victory - or even a top-five finish - in Kiev with his song Amar pelos dois, finishing above Bulgaria and Moldova. Singer-songwriter SuRie will be flying the flag for the United Kingdom this evening with her entry Storm, which the country is hoping will become the sixth winning song from the UK and the first since Katrina and the Waves' Love Shine a Light way back in 1997. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** Rugby League's Legendary Watersplash Final. **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Castleford Tigers v St Helens (Kick-off 2.30pm). Mark Chapman presents coverage of the sixth-round fixture, which takes place at the Mend-A-Hose Jungle. It is a decade since the visitors last lifted the famous trophy, but their good early-season form means they will come into this contest with confidence. The Tigers last won the cup back in 1986, and most recently reached the final in 2014, where they lost 23-10 to Leeds Rhinos. **4.30** Doodlebugs. **4.45** Film: Big Hero 6. (2014) An orphan forms a special bond with an inflatable robot who helps him and his friends investigate a devastating event. Animated adventure, with the voice of Ryan Potter. **6.20** Ready or Not. Game show featuring unsuspecting members of the public who face surprise challenges while going about their daily lives. Paddy McGuinness provides the commentary. **6.50** BBC News. **7.00** Regional Programme. **7.10** Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present as famous theatre actors take part in the general knowledge quiz in which they try to come up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public. The contestants are Wayne Sleep, Louise Dearman, Neil Dudgeon, Annette Badland, Gary Wilmot, Rufus Hound, Roy Hudd and Anita Harris. **8.00** Eurovision Song Contest 2018. Graham Norton returns to the commentary box to cover all the action from tonight's Grand Final, live from the Altice Arena in Lisbon, following Portugal's triumph in Kiev last year. Subsequent programmes subject to change. **11.35** BBC News. Weather. National Lottery Update. **11.55** Film: Lay the Favourite. (2012) A Las Vegas cocktail waitress proves a success as a professional gambler, but arouses the jealousy of her mentor's wife. Comedy, starring Rebecca Hall. **1.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.15** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** The Dengineers. **8.00** Absolute Genius Super Tech with Dick & Dom. **8.30** Beyond Bionic. **9.00** Robot Wars. (R) **10.00** Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes? (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** The World According to Kids. (R) **1.00** Money for Nothing. (R) **1.10** Escape to the Country. (R) **1.55** Film: Finding Neverland. (2004) Fact-based period drama, starring Johnny Depp. **3.30** Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge. (R) **4.30** Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge. (R) **5.30** Love in the Countryside. (R) **6.30** The Forest. How a fleet of highly skilled truckers transport the valuable cargo of timber from the Galloway Forest Park to mills north and south of the border. **7.00** The World's Most Extraordinary Homes. Award-winning architect Piers Taylor and actress and property enthusiast Caroline Quentin explore unusual homes in different locations of the world. (R) **8.00** Coast Lives. Weatherman Barra Best voyages around the Northern Irish coastline, encountering some rough weather even he had not foreseen before seeking sanctuary at the Copeland Islands. **8.30** Dad's Army. The platoon takes part in an exercise with the regular army and everything goes well - until Mainwaring assumes the role of an enemy agent on the run. (R) **9.00** The Private Life of the Royal Academy. Documentary shot over five years at the institution, which is celebrating its 250th anniversary this year, offering a unique insight into one of Britain's most enduring cultural establishments. With unparalleled access, the programme illuminates the inner workings of the Royal Academy of Arts and reveals how it embraces the challenge of balancing tradition and innovation. Architect Farshid Moussavi, artist Yinka Shonibare and painter Olwyn Bowey also reveal the complicated process of arranging art works for the famous Summer Exhibition. Narrated by Olivia Colman. **10.20** Film: My Old Lady. (2014) Comedy drama, starring Maggie Smith and Kevin Kline. **12.00** Versailles. (R) **3.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Star Wars Freemaker Adventures. (R) **7.20** The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go! (R) **7.45** Adventure Time. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.20** Countrywise. (R) **11.50** ITV News: Weather. **12.00** Little Big Shots. (R) **1.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **3.00** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R) **6.00** ITV News: Weather. **6.15** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.30** Ninja Warrior UK. Competitors from across the UK test their strength, speed and courage in the semi-final of the obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara. **7.30** Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule. Madcap panel show presented by the comedian, who presides over two teams nominally tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion. **8.00** Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec host the fifth audition round of the nationwide talent search, which sees a wide variety of acts, from comedians to contortionists, singers to spoon players, compete to impress judges Simon Cowell, Alesha Dixon, Amanda Holden and David Walliams. Whomever the quartet choose to send through to the live stages will then be in with a chance of winning a huge cash prize and a coveted slot at the Royal Variety Performance later this year, following in the footsteps of 2017 winner Tokio Myers. **9.20** The Keith & Paddy Picture Show. Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness re-create James Cameron's Terminator 2: Judgment Day, joined by an all-star cast including Jaime Winstone, Rick Astley and Hank Ossuna. Terminator 2: Judgment Day follows after the news. **9.50** ITV News: Weather. **10.05** Film: Terminator 2: Judgment Day. (1991) Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Arnold Schwarzenegger. **12.30** Jackpot247. **3.00** Babushka. (R)

CHANNEL 4

**6.15** Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **6.45** The King of Queens. (R) **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **3.00** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.00** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.00** Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. **6.30** Channel 4 News. **7.00** When Harry Met Meghan: A Royal Romance. Documentary exploring the life, character and family history of Meghan Markle, the American actress who has won the heart of Prince Harry, with the pair set to marry at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, next Saturday. Testimonies from royal experts provide an insight into the couple's relationship from its earliest stages, and interviews with friends and colleagues detail the circumstances of Meghan's childhood and coming-of-age in Los Angeles. As the child of film industry parents who divorced at a similar age to Harry's, Meghan's formative years appear to bear something of a resemblance to those of her royal suitor, and this programme explores her family tree in minute detail - tracing her ancestry back to the moment her father's ancestor's first arrived in America. **8.00** Britain's Most Historic Towns. Alice Roberts reveals the history of Belfast, visiting the shipyards that built the Titanic and getting locked up in the notorious Crumlin Road gaol. Last in the series. **9.00** Film: Cowboys & Aliens. (2011) A Wild-West town dominated by a cattle baron comes under attack by invaders from another world. It falls to a mysterious stranger with no memory to unite the townsfolk, a gang of outlaws and an Apache tribe, in a bid to fight back against the aliens, and learn the truth about his own past. Sci-fi Western, with Daniel Craig. **11.15** Film: 2 Guns. (2013) **1.15** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.05** Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.20** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **3.20** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.15** Nightmare Tenants: Get Out of My House. (R) **5.15** Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords. (R) **6.10** Rich House, Poor House. (R) **7.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Agents Stewart McCracken and Elmore Victor head to Liverpool for what they expect to be a routine repossession, but instead face the most challenging eviction of their careers. Behind the front door, they find a critically ill two-year-old child with major heart problems, who is on constant life support and unable to breathe without a ventilator. Meanwhile, Brian O'Shaughnessy and Del Anglin chase £2,000 worth of debt owed by a business based in Kent, and recover £4,000 from a recycling business in Buckinghamshire. Plus, Stewart and Elmore encounter another family in crisis in Birmingham, where a retired couple who acted as guarantor for their daughter's tenancy are liable to pay over £3,000 after she defaulted. (R) **8.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Agents Delroy and Kevin face a web of deceit in an Italian delicatessen, while Steve and Paul must evict a tenant who has not paid her rent for over 18 months. (R) **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Live Boxing. Sam Sexton v Hughie Fury. Coverage of the bout for the British Heavyweight Title, which takes place at Bolton Whites Hotel. Fury suffered the first defeat of his career in September, losing a majority decision to then-WBO world champion Joseph Parker at Manchester Arena. Champion Sexton hasn't lost since 2012, and will be keen to continue his good form in this contest and hold onto the belt he won in October. **11.15** When Eurovision Goes Horribly Wrong. Angela Rippon presents a guide to the song contest's most disastrous moments, featuring contributions from past performers including Dana, Sonia and Lindsay Dracass. (R) **1.55** SuperCasino. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Nature's Epic Journeys **8.00** Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom **9.00** Salamander: Blood Diamonds **10.40** Burt Bacharach: A Life in Song **12.10** Singa Bacharach and David! **1.10** Nature's Epic Journeys **2.10** Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom **3.10** Close **ITV2**  
**11.50** Britain's Got More Talent **12.50** Ninja Warrior UK **1.50** Film: Spy Kids (2001) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55** Film: Spy Kids (2001) **3.45** Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50** Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **5.25** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003) **6.30** FYI Daily **6.35** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003) **9.20** Britain's Got More Talent **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.10** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.30** Plebs **2.05** CelebAbility **2.40** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**  
**12.25** Film: Columbus: How to Dial a Murder (1978) **2.00** Prince Harry and Meghan: Truly, Madly, Deeply **4.00** Invitation to a Royal Wedding **5.05** Agatha Christie's Poirot **11.00** Film: Murder on the Orient Express (1974) **1.30** On the Buses **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**  
**11.25** Film: Lawman (1971) **12.25** FYI Daily **12.30** Film: Lawman (1971) **1.30** ITV Racing Live from Ascot. **4.30** Film: Octopussy (1983) **5.30** FYI Daily **5.35** Film: Octopussy (1983) **7.15** Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **8.15** FYI Daily **8.20** Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **9.00** Film: Passenger 57 (1992) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: Passenger 57 (1992) **10.45** Cycling: Tour Series **11.55** Film: Executive Decision (1996) **12.55** FYI Daily **1.00** Film: Executive Decision (1996) **2.30** Tommy Cooper **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**  
**1.00** The Big Bang Theory **2.00** Film: Evolution (2001) **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Friends with Benefits (2011) **11.10** Gogglebox **1.15** The Inbetweeners **2.25** Tattoo Fixers **3.15** Rude Tube **4.10** Rude(ish) Tube **Film4**  
**11.00** Arietty (2010) **1.00** Rango (2011) **3.05** Capture the Flag (2015) **4.50** The Devil Wears Prada (2006) **7.00** Men in Black 3 (2012) **9.00** Now You See Me (2013) **11.15** Men & Chicken (2015)

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## CHOICE



Sue Perkins

### British Academy Television Awards 2018 (BBC1, 8pm)

Sue Perkins hosts the awards ceremony from London's Royal Festival Hall. The shows in the running include **Black Mirror**, **Line of Duty**, **The Crown** and **Three Girls**, while nominees for awards include Joe Cole, Thandie Newton, Claire Foy, Molly Windsor, Brian F O'Bryan, Anna Friel, Julie Hesmondhalgh, Samson Kayo, Anupam Kher, Jack Rowan and Sandi Toksvig. John Motson, will receive the BAFTA Special Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to sports broadcasting.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Britain's Fat Fight with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall. (R) **2.15** Lifetime. **2.25** Points of View. **2.40** Songs of Praise. **3.20** Britain's Best Home Cook. The contestants create their ultimate fish dish displaying their individual home cooking style and then invent a sweet or savoury meal with squash or rice as the key ingredient. (R) **4.20** Final Score. Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of the classified results and this afternoon's news. **5.30** BBC News. **5.45** Regional Programme.

**6.00** **The A to Z of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.** Jennifer Saunders presents a guide to the 105-year history of the horticultural event, while Adam Frost shares his memories of being involved in the show as both a designer and a presenter. Plus, Arit Anderson and Frances Tophill travelling the country meeting people who are preparing to exhibit their creations at this year's show, and a profile of the event's most prolific gold medal winner Sarah Eberle.

**7.00** **Countryfile.** A round-up of rural reports from Hampshire. Matt Baker discovers a plan to make more use of locally sourced timber. John Craven finds out about how oysters are being reintroduced to the Solent, and Ellie Harrison visits an innovative project to tackle coastal erosion. Tom Heap investigates the danger of cyber-attacks on farming machinery, and Charlotte Smith and Adam Henson meet the third finalist for the Farming Hero Awards.

**8.00** **British Academy Television Awards 2018.** Sue Perkins hosts the awards ceremony from London's Royal Festival Hall. The shows nominated for awards include **Black Mirror**, **Line of Duty**, **The Crown** and **Three Girls**.

**10.00** BBC News.

**10.20** Regional Programme.

**10.30** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the final round of Premier League fixtures, including Huddersfield Town v Arsenal, Burnley v Bournemouth and Swansea City v Stoke City.

**12.10** The Women's Football Show. **12.45** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.50** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.05** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **6.50** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **7.20** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.20** Countryfile. (R) **9.15** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.15** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **12.00** Athletics: Diamond League Shanghai Highlights. **1.00** Triathlon World Series: Yokohama. **3.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Toronto Wolfpack v Warrington Wolves (Kick-off 3.30pm). **5.30** Flog It! (R)

**6.00** **Film: Tomorrowland: A World Beyond.** (2015) Premiere. A boy genius in the 1960s finds his way into a spectacular futuristic metropolis while attempting to promote his idea for a jetpack. Decades later, he has grown into a disillusioned adult, while a girl who has the talent and enthusiasm he has lost also finds her way into this strange new world, and together they attempt to uncover its secrets. Fantasy adventure, starring George Clooney, Britt Robertson and Hugh Laurie.

**8.00** **Neanderthals: Meet Your Ancestors.** Part one of two. Archaeologist Ella Al-Shamahi and actor Andy Serkis bring the prehistoric humans back to life through animation, revealing surprising similarities to modern humans.

**9.00** **Burma with Simon Reeve.** Part one of two. Documentary exploring the country in the aftermath of the humanitarian crisis in which thousands of Rohingya Muslims were driven from their homes by the military.

**10.00** **Atlanta.** New series. A man sees an opportunity to turn his life around by helping his cousin become a rap star. Comedy drama, starring Donald Glover and Brian Tyree Henry.

**10.25** **Atlanta.** The cousins are arrested after the shooting and while Paper Boi posts bail quickly, Earn is left at the station waiting to be processed along with everyone else arrested overnight.

**10.50** **Later Weekend with Jools Holland.** Return of the live music programme, featuring performances by Snow Patrol, Shame, Tower of Power, Jade Bird, Bettye Lavette and Plan B.

**11.50** Versailles. (R) **12.45** Versailles. (R) **2.35** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **3.35** Holby City. (R) **4.35** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.25** The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go! (R) **7.45** Adventure Time. (R) **8.00** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25** Love Your Garden. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **12.15** Britain's Got More Talent. (R) **1.15** ITV News: Weather. **1.30** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **2.30** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs - India. (R) **3.00** Change Your Tune. **4.00** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **5.00** The Chase Celebrity Special. (R)

**6.00** **Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.** Madcap panel show presented by the comedian, who presides over two teams nominally tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion. (R)

**6.30** **ITV News: Weather.**

**6.45** **Regional Programme: Weather.**

**7.00** **Little Big Shots.** Dawn French hosts a variety show featuring some of the world's most talented children, including a blind pianist and displays of martial arts and pizza tossing.

**8.00** **Midsomer Murders.** New series. The crime drama returns for a 20th series, which finds Barnaby and Winter joined by a new pathologist, Petra Antonescu (Anamaria Marinca). A woman slips away from a Jane Austen re-enactment in full costume, only to be stabbed to death in the woods - her murder being recorded by a drone. The victim is discovered to be an undercover journalist, who had some unusual questions to ask about the village and the country house where the historical event took place. Guest starring Claire Skinner and Samuel West.

**10.00** **ITV News: Weather.**

**10.20** **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (R)

**11.20** **This Time Next Year.** Davina McCall meets an 11-year-old meningitis survivor hoping to finally have hands, and a young couple with fertility complications who dream of starting a family. (R)

**12.15** Great Art. (R) **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. (R) **4.40** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15** The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Eat the Week. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Bake Off: The Professionals. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** **Film: Cheaper by the Dozen.** (2003) Family comedy remake, starring Steve Martin. **4.25** Extreme Cake Makers: Royal Wedding Special. **5.30** Channel 4 News.

**6.00** **Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix Highlights.** Steve Jones and David Coulthard present action from the fifth round of the season at the Circuit de Catalunya in Barcelona, where Lewis Hamilton was the winner last year.

**8.00** **Bake Off: The Professionals.** Judges Cheryl Finden and Benoit Blin put the five remaining teams to the test making layered slices. The first stage of the challenge involves making 24 tiramisu and 24 roulade praline slices in three and a half hours, while for the showpiece, they must prepare enough modern-themed croque-mouches to serve 36 people.

**9.00** **Film: Eddie the Eagle.** (2016) Premiere. Biopic of British sporting underdog Eddie Edwards. Determined to fulfil his dreams of becoming an Olympic athlete, Edwards trains as a ski jumper - a field in which Britain had no other competitors. He secures a place in the 1988 Winter Olympics, where his can-do attitude makes him a media sensation in the face of a losing streak. Starring Taron Egerton, Hugh Jackman and Christopher Walken.

**11.05** **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers panel game, which sees Sean Lock and Seann Walsh taking on guest captain Joe Wilkinson and Danny Dyer, with Bill Bailey in Dictionary Corner. (R)

**12.05** **Film: Good People.** (2014) Crime thriller, starring James Franco and Kate Hudson. **1.35** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.25** When Harry Met Meghan: A Royal Romance. The relationship between Meghan Markle and Prince Harry. (R) **3.20** Gok's Fill Your House for Free. A couple whose plans to decorate their house were thrown into disarray. (R) **4.15** Best Laid Plans. (R) **5.10** Fifteen to One. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Moly. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.10** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.35** Only the Little White Van. (R) **7.45** Rusty Rivets. **8.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.15** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.30** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.50** Floogals. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.30** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.00** Budgies Make You Laugh Out Loud. **11.55** Penguins Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **12.55** Puppies Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **1.55** Naughty Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **2.50** **Film: Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls.** (1995) 3.50 5 News Update. **3.55** **Film: Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls.** (1995) Concluded. **4.40** **Film: Garfield.** (2004) Family comedy, with the voice of Bill Murray.

**6.10** **Kittens Make You Laugh Out Loud.** Internet videos featuring kittens doing bizarre and humorous things. (R)

**7.00** **Kitten's Got Talent.** Internet clips of cats performing physical feats or demonstrating lightning reactions, sporting and athletic skills, super intelligence or bravery. (R)

**8.00** **Psycho Pussies: When Cats Attack.** Documentary using online clips and personal accounts to explore the dangerous side of the domestic feline, drawing parallels between big cats and their tame cousins. (R)

**8.55** 5 News Weekend.

**9.00** **Kylie at 50: Especially For You.** Profile of the singer, to coincide with the 30th anniversary of her debut single. The programme features archive footage of TV appearances and personal home videos.

**10.35** **Film: Muriel's Wedding.** (1994) A down-trodden Abba-obsessed woman heads for the bright lights of Sydney to fulfil her dreams of the perfect wedding. Comedy, with Toni Collette, Bill Hunter and Rachel Griffiths.

**12.40** Guinness Falls, Falls & Flops. (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **4.00** Naughty Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** Wildlife SOS. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** BBC Young Musician 2018 Grand Final **9.30** History of the Future: Cars **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** The Horizon Guide to Space Shuttles **11.30** Britain's Star Men: Heroes of Astronomy **12.30** Science and Islam **1.30** Metal: How It Works **2.30** The Horizon Guide to Space Shuttles **3.30** Close

**ITV2**  
**11.20** You've Been Framed! Gold **11.55** Celebrity Catchphrase **12.55** **Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor** (2008) **1.55** FYI Daily **2.00** **Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor** (2008) **3.00** Britain's Got Talent **4.20** Britain's Got More Talent **5.20** **Film: Despicable Me** (2010) **6.20** FYI Daily **6.25** **Film: Despicable Me** (2010) **7.25** **Film: Pacific Rim** (2013) **8.25** FYI Daily **8.30** **Film: Pacific Rim** (2013) **10.00** Family Guy **11.25** American Dad! **12.25** The Cleveland Show **12.50** Through the Keyhole **1.55** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

**ITV3**  
**12.30** The Royal Wives of Windsor **2.30** A Very Royal Wedding **4.00** Prince Harry's Story: Four Royal Weddings **5.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** Joanna Lumley's Japan **10.00** Cilla **11.00** Wire in the Blood **1.10** Blue Murder **2.25** Liverpool **1.30** Road to Avonlea **4.55** George and Mildred **5.50** ITV3 Nightscreen

**ITV4**  
**1.45** **Film: Tobruk** (1967) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55** **Film: Tobruk** (1967) **3.55** **Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training** (1986) **4.55** FYI Daily **5.00** **Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training** (1986) **5.45** UEFA European U17 Championship Live. Coverage of a quarter-final match (Kick-off 6.00pm). **8.00** Sporting Funnies **8.10** **Film: Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol** (1987) **9.10** FYI Daily **9.15** **Film: Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol** (1987) **10.00** **Film: Ransom** (1996) **12.20** **Film: The Keeper** (2009) **1.20** FYI Daily **1.25** **Film: The Keeper** (2009) **2.25** The Protectors **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4**  
**2.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **5.30** Young Sheldon **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** **Film: Battleship** (2012) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** The Inbetweeners **11.10** The Big Bang Theory **12.05** Tattoo Fixers **1.10** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.05** Rude Tube **3.25** Hollyoaks

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FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**Murder, She Baked: A Peach Cobbler Mystery,** Channel 5, 3.20pm  
Amateur sleuth Hannah Swensen is plunged into a mystery once again after finding the dead body of one of the owners of a rival bakery, but this time she finds herself under suspicion of murder. Whodunit, starring Alison Sweeney. (2016)

**TUESDAY**  
**Cradle Swapping,** Channel 5, 3.15pm  
Premiere. A young couple cope with the mysterious illness of their newborn baby, but discover the child they brought home is not theirs. Drama, starring Amanda Clayton. (2017)

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Maniac Mom,** Channel 5, 3.15pm  
Premiere. Mandy, a mother in a new town finds herself ostracized after her young daughter outperforms another woman's daughter. Thriller, starring Jessica Blackmore. (2017)



I Know What You Did Last Summer, Friday, BBC1, 12.25am

**THURSDAY**  
**Fatal Close-Up,** Channel 5, 3.15pm  
Premiere. A freelance photographer is suspected of murder when a woman she is assigned to take photos of is killed. Thriller, starring Daphne Zuniga and Adam Huss. (2018)

**FRIDAY**  
**Being Blacker,** BBC2, 11.05pm  
Molly Dineen's documentary about Blacker Dread, a Jamaican-born reggae producer, businessman, father, son and pillar of the community in Brixton. The film focuses on a tumultuous time in his life as he deals with the death of his mother and the prospect of his first prison sentence. (2018)

**I Know What You Did Last Summer, BBC1, 12.25am**  
Four teenagers accidentally run over a stranger and hide the body rather than inform the authorities, only to find themselves stalked the following year by a shadowy figure who takes great delight in disposing of them in a variety of gruesome ways. Horror, starring Jennifer Love Hewitt. (1997)

# Gently does it for Lee in his quest for justice

He may have played a police officer in Inspector George Gently, but in real life actor Lee Ingleby has managed to avoid seeing the inside of a court.

The actor admits he's never attended a trial, saying: "I've had to turn down jury service a couple of times for filming reasons. There was one time where they refused my request to not do it. And I thought, 'I'm going to lose the acting job.' So we had to get letters from the producers and so on to try and change their mind. Which they did."

He adds: "I think it would be quite interesting to be on a jury. Of course you never know what you're going to get. But just to see how it all works would be interesting. How the barristers and solicitors work and all the rest of it. I guess every case is different."

However, the character he plays in the new four-part drama Innocent, which is showing on consecutive evenings across the week, has probably had enough of courts. Ingleby stars as

David, who, after serving seven years of a life sentence for the murder of his wife Tara, is unexpectedly freed on a technicality.

The verdict is good news for his brother Phil (Daniel Ryan), who has campaigned tirelessly on behalf of his brother. But it comes as a terrible blow to Tara's sister Alice (Hermione Norris) and her husband Rob (Adrian Rawlins), who are unable to conceive and have been raising David's children as their own – using the proceeds of Tara and David's estate – and now face losing custody.

Ingleby says: "As far as Alice is concerned, the original verdict was read out and that was it. It was proven in court that David murdered her sister. And that's what it is. David is released on a technicality rather than through some irrefutable evidence. It must be very hard to come to terms with that from her point of view."

It's also tough on his kids: "As far as his children are concerned, they

only know he was convicted of killing their mother. She is no longer around and that's because of their father. That's the story and the life they have been leading.

"David's children have been getting used to normality in their lives with new guardians after the trauma of losing their mother. Having been young when he was jailed, their father now appears as this stranger with a story they can't process."

Then there's DI Will Beech (Nigel Lindsay), who was the original investigating officer and resents the implication that he got it wrong. He's been suspended from the new investigation and replaced by DI Cathy Hudson (Angel Coulby) – which is awkward, as they are secretly in a relationship. And why does Dr Tom Wilson (Elliot Cowan) seem troubled by David's release?

But the biggest question remains – is David really the innocent victim of a terrible miscarriage of justice, or does he deserve to be behind bars?



Lee Ingleby and Hermione Norris star in Innocent, Monday, ITV, 9pm

# BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**Back to the Land with Kate Humble** BBC2, 7pm  
The broadcaster chats to a father and son team who own the first caviar farm in the UK that harvests sturgeon eggs ethically and humanely, and who are embarking on their own breeding programme that could make or break the business. Kate also meets a family who have diversified into growing hemp on an industrial scale and even built their farm house with it, before visiting a woman who crafts Whitby jet in its raw form, then polishes, shapes and works it into silver and gold jewellery which she smiths herself.

**TUESDAY**  
**Manchester Terror Attack: In Their Own Words** Channel 5, 10pm  
On May 22, 2017, an audience of 14,200 – the majority of them young girls – watched the pop singer Ariana Grande perform at Manchester Arena. The show finished at 10.30pm and as the fans left the arena, a terrorist bomb detonated, killing 22 people and injuring more than 240. The attack shocked the world (Grande and a host of international stars would return to Manchester the following month for a benefit concert) and now, one

year on, some of the people who were caught up in the tragedy share their stories. The documentary hears not just from those injured, but also their families and the investigating officers, as the reveal how their lives have changed since that night. The BBC will also be remembering the tragedy with the documentary Manchester Bomb: Our Story at 10.45pm.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Love in the Countryside** BBC2, 9pm  
This time, 28-year-old equine vet Heather and 33-year-old cattle and sheep farmer Christine's dates arrive to sample rural life. Christine throws her two dates Joe and Josh straight in at the deep end with some particularly sensitive work, while the competition to win over vet Heather gets serious between her three chosen singletons. Elsewhere, Yorkshire dairy farmer Pete gets to spend some quality one on one time with each of his dates, and emotions run high when he finally reveals who he can see a future with.



Humans, Thursday, Channel 4, 9pm

**THURSDAY**  
**Humans** Channel 4, 9pm  
Sky Atlantic's Westworld isn't the only robot uprising on our screens – this homegrown series is also back for a third series. It's a year since the dawn of consciousness, and it seems that humanity currently has the upper hand as the oppressed Synthetics are struggling to survive. Max (Ivanno Jeremiah), Mia (Gemma Chan) and Flash (Ritu Arya) are living in a designated synth area known as the Railyard, while trying to reach an uneasy peace with the humans – and caring for the comatose Leo (Colin Morgan). Meanwhile, Laura (Katherine Parkinson) is campaigning for synth rights, while Joe (Tom Goodman) has opted for a technology-free life and Niska (Emily Berrington) has withdrawn from the struggle to pass herself off as human. However, when cracks appear in

the Synth community, it seems as if everyone will have to fight for their survival.

**FRIDAY**  
**The Royal Wedding: They're Getting Married in the Morning** BBC1, 7pm  
We don't know if you've heard, but there's going to be a royal wedding tomorrow. The BBC is certainly excited as they bring us the latest news ahead of the ceremony, which will see American actress and humanitarian Meghan Markle marry Prince Harry. The presenters hear from some of the people who are playing key roles, finding out about their own preparations for the occasion. A team of reporters around the venue will also be on hand with updates, as crowds start to gather to claim the best vantage points.

**The Bridge** BBC2, 9pm  
Saga wants to return to work following her traumatic assault, but while Henrik wants to have her on the investigation, Lillian takes some convincing. Saga remains obsessed with finding Henrik's daughters, while he wonders if he will have to give in to the idea that they are no longer alive in order to finally move on.

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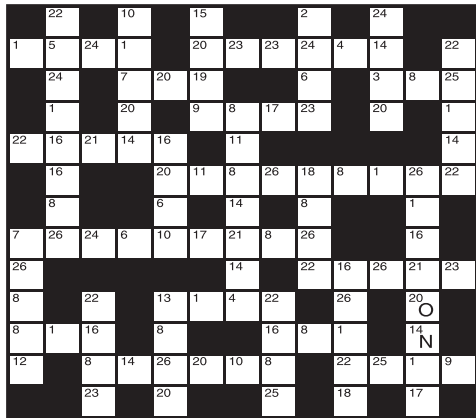


## BRAIN GYM

No.479

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
E	M	Q	X	J	G	Y	P	B	S	N	I	F
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
O	R	K	D	L	W	T	C	V	Z	U	A	H

1	14	N
2	15	
3	16	
4	17	
5	18	
6	19	
7	20	O
8	21	
9	22	
10	23	
11	24	
12	25	
13	26	

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

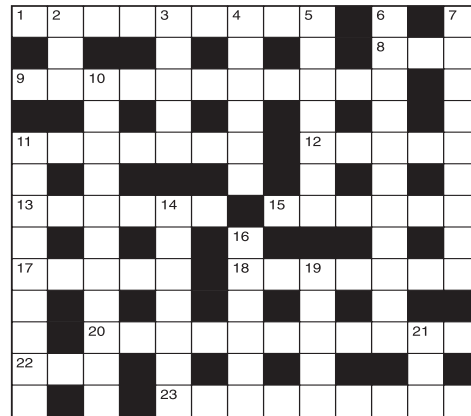
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

- Look round for a way to throw a fight (4,5)
- He holds a round gardening tool (3)
- Valiant but open to still further suspicion? (11)
- Point behind the ship towards the sunrise (7)
- The Irish lost more than half of them (5)
- This state is too good to be true (6)
- How one should march on foot (6)
- It's socially acceptable in workers - relatively speaking (5)
- They have to knock inside for treatment (7)
- Frozen to the core (4-7)
- It's frequently poetical (3)
- Their charges will be small (9)

## Down

- We start with a feeling of wonder (3)
- An inspiration to entertain (5)
- Displaced unit go for a trip (6)
- Ant-bite upsets the foreigner (7)
- Most actors probably hope for it (3,4,4)
- A mundane subject (9)
- Breaks off an engagement? (11)
- Children are given it in different forms (9)
- Specifically used by diabetics (7)
- He's mastered the art of eating out (6)
- Make sure your slip isn't showing! (5)
- Everything started with her (3)



## Quick Clues:

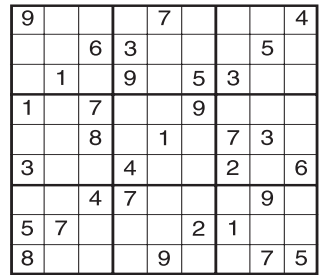
## Across

- Powerlessness (9)
- Possess (3)
- Leaning (11)
- Shorten (7)
- Smell (5)
- Multitudes (6)
- Contrivance (6)
- Reel (5)
- Misconception (7)
- Promotion (11)
- Revealed (3)
- In repose (9)

## Down

- Male (3)
- Attempted (5)
- Closer (6)
- Incident (7)
- Make firm (11)
- Middle (9)
- Confirm (11)
- Coming to power (9)
- Transfer (7)
- Recompense (6)
- Ledge (5)
- Zero (3)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;

8	4	5	6	9	7	1	2	3
3	7	1	4	5	2	9	8	6
6	9	2	1	3	8	7	5	4
7	3	8	2	1	5	4	6	9
2	5	9	7	6	4	3	1	8
1	6	4	3	8	9	5	7	2
5	8	6	9	4	1	2	3	7
9	1	7	8	2	3	6	4	5
4	2	3	5	7	6	8	9	1

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
 CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Spaces; 8 Bureau; 10 Untried; 11 Taper; 12 Edam; 13 Staid; 17 Liars; 18 Keen; 22 Limit; 23 Avarice; 24 Vacant; 25 Punnet.  
 Down: 1 Assumes; 2 Partial; 3 Relic; 4 Sustain; 5 Deeps; 6 Outre; 9 Editorial; 14 Distant; 15 Designs; 16 Invents; 19 Slave; 20 Smack; 21 Vague.  
 QUICK - Across: 7 Choose; 8 Abour; 10 Include; 11 Vant; 12 Vast; 13 Score; 17 Hurry; 18 Lone; 22 Loose; 23 Abridge; 24 Fasten; 25 Aspect. Down: 1 Achieve; 2 Concise; 3 Issue; 4 Bravery; 5 Rogue; 6 Trite; 9 Mercurial; 14 Quieten; 15 Soldier; 16 Beneath; 19 Cleft; 20 Rouse; 21 Trust.

## Quiz

- In which county is the ship-burial site Sutton Hoo?
- What is the edible fruit of the bush Ribes uva-crispa?
- Which English bridge was the world's longest single-span suspension bridge when completed in 1980?
- Which Crazy Gang member was born Robert Winthrop?
- Where, in Norse mythology, did the principal gods live?
- Tony Blair's wife Cherie is the daughter of which actor?
- Which town is the headquarters of the UK Civil Service Commission?
- Which bird's ancient name was ouzel or ouzel?
- What is the capital of Italy's Lazio region?
- Of which branch of biology was Gregor Mendel a founder?

## Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Ulysses; 2 Rockies; 3 Pulp Fiction; 4 Rhode Island; 5 Zoroastrianism; 6 Chris Eubank; 7 The Derby; 8 United Artists; 9 Stretford; 10 Gregory Peck.

## Niner: DEPORTING

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

154679  
341189  
3462

gives delicate,  
gives delicate,  
gives delicate.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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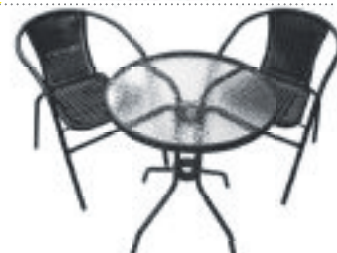
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# Plenty of fun – left, right and Center

IT was a random song to teach a two-year-old child, and – with a slight tweak – it seemed entirely fitting of the occasion. At least it gave us some welcome relief from Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star. As I whizzed round the cycle paths of Woburn Center Parcs on two wheels with my daughter sat inside the trailer in tow, she belted out 'back in the wagon again' to the tune of cowboy entertainer Gene Autry's Back in the Saddle Again. For her 'the wagon' was one of the holiday highlight.

However, there were many others during our four-night break at Center Parcs's newest site. It opened in June 2014 and still feels dazzlingly new; our Woodland Lodge was so immaculate it felt as if we were its first occupants. We holidayed with friends, another family of three, and despite having two energetic toddlers there was loads of room for them to play.

## LUXURIOUS

With luxurious fixtures and fittings, and kitchen boasting integrated appliances, it's a real home-from-home. Each of the UK's five Center Parcs sites is set amongst hundreds of acres of natural woodland with top quality accommodation, facilities and activities appointed sympathetically to the environment. Lodges vary from standard Woodland Lodges to the uber-luxurious Treetops (opening at Woburn this September) however, with all you're in for a treat.

On arrival we were greeted with a welcome grocery pack with essentials for our stay, such as eggs, bacon, bread and milk as well as treats. And while the kitchen provided the perfect cooking environment, the lure of the onsite restaurants was too great. With branches of Las Iguanas, Café Rouge, Strada and Starbucks, plus a host of others, we were spoiled for choice and ate out frequently. We enjoyed delicious meals in family-

Restaurants overlook the beautiful lakeside



Activities for all – even for the smallest guests



friendly environments; Strada has a lovely soft play area which I couldn't drag my little one away from meanwhile Las Iguanas had a dinky room with interactive games suitable for tots. As well as eating our way around the complex, we managed to factor in lots of activities too.

Hiring bikes – or taking your own – is a must to enjoy the breathtaking landscape, as well as easily reach the site's vast facilities. A large lake – home to a variety of watersports such as kayaking, paddle boarding and pedaloes – is at the heart of the site. It proved a popular spot for our little ones who could feed the ducks and

play on the woodland playground. Daily trips to the Subtropical Swimming Paradise were top of the agenda as the children loved it – almost as much as the adults. The vast indoor pool area is home to a lazy river, shallower children's area with water spouts and gentle slides, outside wild water rapids and chutes.

There are family-sized cabanas if you want to treat yourself to some private relaxation space, and two cafés if hunger strikes. The thrilling water rides were spectacular; Tropical Cyclone proving particularly memorable. Equally thrilling was our encounter with the

baby owls up at the falconry in which an experienced member of staff introduced us to some of the smaller birds of prey.

If that's not your cup of tea, then there are more than 200 other activities to try out from pottery painting and paintballing to cupcake decorating and quad biking. As a break from the mayhem of holidaying with toddlers we all took time out in Aqua Sana, the fabulous onsite spa.

After four fabulous nights it really won't be long before we're returning – and we're back in the wagon again . . .

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Robin Lindsay Neale stepping from the Defiant cockpit

# Test pilot to rescue as engine falls off

**WHAT** do you do if you are flying a light aircraft and the engine falls off? Well it helps if you are a highly-experienced test pilot.

Robin Lindsay Neale joined Boulton Paul Aircraft in Wolverhampton as a test pilot at the outbreak of war, living in Horden Road. He flew Defiants, Rocs, Barracudas, and sundry other aircraft from Pendeford Airfield. And when Chief Test Pilot, Cecil Feather retired at the end of the war Lindsay Neale took over.

## Holiday

The company was developing the Balliol advanced trainer, and Lindsay Neale gave it its first flight on May 30, 1947, then on June 28 he borrowed a Miles Messenger light aircraft and loaded his family for a holiday in the South of France, his wife, Rosemary, sister-in-law, Hazel, and children, Jenny and Jeff.

At about 8pm that day they were cruising across South East France near the town of Bait, with Lindsay Neale dozing in the front passenger seat, and Hazel, aged 19, flying the aircraft.

Suddenly there was a loud bang and the aircraft

## MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

reared up. Neale grabbed the controls and found he could not hold it level.

He ordered everyone to pile into the front seats, and pull the baggage, which luckily was packed in an old parachute bag, from behind the seats and stuffed it against the windscreen.

The two-blade wooden propeller had broken and one blade had flown off, then the massive out-of-balance force of the other had pulled the entire engine off the aircraft, there was nothing forward of the windscreen.

## Gravity

With everyone in the front seats the centre of gravity was a little more manageable, and with a piece of masterly flying Lindsay Neale was able to safely glide down and land in a small French field.

He kept the piece of broken propeller as a souvenir, and Miles aircraft gave him a model of the Messenger, which was a write-off.

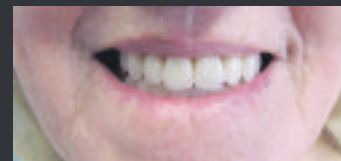
Lindsay Neale returned to the development of the Balliol but unfortunately died, along with his assistant, Peter Tishaw, in a crash of the prototype at Coven on February 3, 1949.



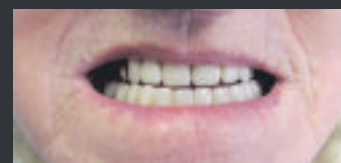
Robin Lindsay Neale leaning on the wing of a Defiant

ADVERTISEMENT

L O N D O N  
B U D A P E S T  
D U D L E Y



Above: Theresa's new corrected smile  
Below: Her badly fitting and painful old dentures



Denture Clinic Principal Steven Burchell  
Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353 with his  
thrilled patient Theresa Reardon

## Predictably reassuring

**WHEN** Theresa Reardon from London set out on a mission to fix a longstanding dental problem she never imagined it would take a lifetime's search before finding the answer... in Dudley.

Even a trip as a dental tourist to a Budapest clinic delivered only disappointment.

Remarkably, she never lost hope that one day she'd stumble upon a happy clinical outcome, despite decades of false dawns.

"I was determined to find an answer and I found Mr Steven Burchell at the Denture Clinic," she declares.

Her breakthrough came eight years ago while looking after a doctor in Wolverhampton, but never realised a story she was reading in the local newspaper would have such an impact on her daily living.

The devout Catholic from County Cork in southern Ireland, who moved to London when she was 25, adds: "I'd come to Wolverhampton and in a quiet moment was reading the free paper, The Chronicle. I saw a story there about a lady who couldn't eat properly and how Steven had sorted her out, so I kept the cutting."

Eight years passed before she was prompted to look at the article again after her denture prescription from the Hungarian capital broke.

"I read it over and over again, booked an appointment, got on the train and made my way to Dudley," she recalls.

Theresa suffered all her denture life with a protruding lower bite where the bottom teeth are more prominent than the upper.

This can sometimes make chewing difficult and patients self-conscious. My bottom dentures were so unstable my diet was always restricted," she says.

Staff at the clinic in North Street were shocked to learn she had travelled alone to her appointment and was returning to her Golders Green apartment in London the same day.

## I'll have steak

"Nothing was going to stop me," she added. "The teeth I'd been made ten years before in Budapest were useless and they hurt like hell. My new ones don't hurt at all and for the very first time my top teeth can come over my bottom teeth."

On the day her new prescription was fitted she decided to celebrate with a meal out at the Miller & Carter steakhouse in Penn.

"I was advised to take it gently, but my teeth felt so good I thought I'll have a steak," she says. It was the first time Theresa could tackle such a "difficult meal". With school-girl laughter she adds: "I loved it. It was worth waiting for."

Admitting to a regular tippie of red wine, she's determined to carry on celebrating her new teeth and making the best of her restored confidence.

"I may even manage the odd glass of sherry," she jokes. "It's been a long time coming and I'm so grateful that I don't have to put my hand over my mouth any more."

I was always afraid to smile, but now...

look at me, all thanks to Steven."

Theresa's problems began when at 18 she took a job as a doctor's receptionist in Cork. She was advised to have a full clearance after gum disease was diagnosed.

"The bite on every set of teeth I had was never right until now," she says.

Theresa left Cork with two other girls to stay with an order of nuns in Harrow.

"I was helping at a nursing home. The Reverend Mother sent my two friends back home but encouraged me to apply for a job with the Queen's Household and I worked as a deputy catering supervisor at Buckingham Palace."

Reflecting on her colourful life, she adds in a beautifully musical Cork accent: "Every year I get a Christmas card from the Queen."

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# PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY  
GUIDE TO HOME  
BUYING AND  
LETTING

## Deceptively spacious home has been much improved

**Situated on one of the borough's most sought after residential roads, this superb character detached house in Stafford Road, Bloxwich, is deceptively spacious and has been lovingly maintained and improved by the current owners.**

It is for sale through Marrion & Co at £389,950.

The gas centrally heated and majority double glazed accommodation briefly comprises of an enclosed storm porch, an entrance hall/stairs, two reception rooms, a breakfast kitchen, three excellent double bedrooms, a family bathroom with a separate shower cubicle, a single car garage, a large driveway for several vehicles and substantial gardens with a mature and private rear aspect.

This superbly situated and tastefully appointed traditionally styled detached house occupies a most sought after position on one of the boroughs foremost residential roads opposite to the prestigious Bloxwich Golf club. Although having been thoughtfully maintained and improved, the property retains many original features and character.

Approached over a long block paved driveway providing ample off-road parking and manoeuvring space, the property is within just a few minutes walk of many local amenities at nearby Bloxwich High Street, and Market Centre. The front dining room has a dining room with a bay window and a feature fireplace housing a cast iron Art Nouveau style flame-effect gas fire with a tiled hearth and wooden surround and glazed double doors leading through to the rear lounge.

This has a bay window, a feature fireplace and French-style doors to the rear garden. The rear breakfast kitchen has windows to the front and rear, wooden flooring, a range of country style wall and base units with work surfaces over, a composite sink unit with a mixer tap, a Leisure Rangemaster 110 gas cooker with an extractor over, an integrated dishwasher, fridge and freezer, door to a walk-in pantry, spot lighting and a door to a side lobby.

BLOXWICH £389,950



### TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Marrion & Co

TEL: 01922 404446

EMAIL: [sales@marrion.co.uk](mailto:sales@marrion.co.uk)

### KEY FEATURES

Superb detached house  
3 double bedrooms  
2 receptions  
Sought after address  
Spacious accommodation



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# K.Stuart Swash

## AUCTION

**12th June 2018**

*Entries to date include:*

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*Further entries invited*

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### Semi-detached property on sale with no chain

Being immaculately presented, this semi-detached home in Martley Road, Walsall, is for sale through Marrior & Co at £170,000 with no chain.

Having excellent value accommodation, this home is most worthy of early internal viewing.

The gas centrally heated and double-glazed accommodation briefly includes a porch, an entrance hall/stairs, a front lounge with wood-effect laminate flooring and a modern steel finished focal point

**WALSALL  
£170,000**

fireplace, a breakfast/dining kitchen, a conservatory, three bedrooms, a family bathroom, a concrete paved driveway giving off-road parking for several vehicles flanked by mature lawn, a detached single garage and a mature well-screened rear garden.

This ideal family property has been much improved by the current

owner. It is conveniently placed in the popular residential area of High Heath, Pelsall, and has good access to all usual local amenities.

These include frequent and regular public transport services, schools catering for children of all age groups and places of public worship. There are excellent recreational facilities in the area including Pelsall cricket and football clubs.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing, contact Marrior & Co on 01922 404446.

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BIGWOOD

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Aston Villa Football Ground

**Starting at 10:00am**

# AUCTION

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To include properties on behalf of:

Plus properties on behalf of Receivers/Housing Associations



**56 Waite Road, Willenhall**  
3 Bed Semi Detached House  
Guide: £60,000+ (plus fees)



**26 Tobruk Walk, Willenhall**  
3 Bed Mid Terraced House  
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)



**11 Burrowes Street, Walsall**  
2 Bed Second Floor Apartment  
Guide: £48,000-£53,000 (plus fees)



**18 Chaucer Road, Bloxwich**  
3 Bed Detached House  
Guide: £75,000+ (plus fees)



**34 Langtree Close, Cannock**  
3 Bed Detached House  
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)



**50 Broadhurst Green, Hednesford**  
3 Bed Semi Detached House  
Guide: £45,000+ (plus fees)



**45 Blakenall Heath, Walsall**  
3 Bed Semi Detached House  
Guide: £40,000+ (plus fees)



**53 Mill Lane, Willenhall**  
3 Bed Semi Detached House  
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)



**239 Darlaston Road, Walsall**  
Residential Investment Property  
Current Gross Income: £18,200 pa.  
Guide: £94,000-£98,000 (plus fees)



**98 Blakenall Lane, Walsall**  
Residential Investment Property  
Current Gross Income: £23,700 pa.  
Guide: £128,000-£133,000 (plus fees)

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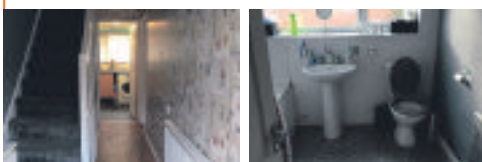
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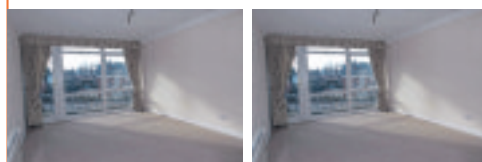
NEW



Balmoral Drive, Willenhall

- Three Bedroom Semi
- Porch entrance
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Driveway
- Garage
- EPC TBA
- Sorry no DHSS

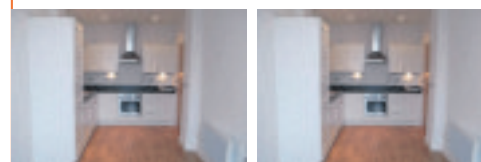
£550 PCM



Sutton Road, Walsall

- Second Floor Apartment
- Two Bedroom
- Close to town Centre
- Balcony Area
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Electric Heating
- Large Lounge
- Sorry No DHSS Accepted
- EPC -31

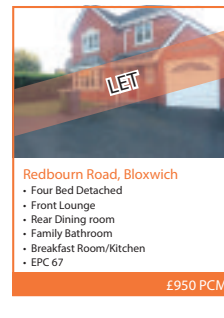
£525 PCM



Smiths Flour Mill, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- lounge
- Kitchen
- Integrated Appliances
- Secondary Glazing
- En-suite
- Walsall Town Centre
- Allocated Parking
- EPC - 76
- Sorry No DHSS

£500 PCM



Redbourn Road, Bloxwich

- Four Bed Detached
- Front Lounge
- Rear Dining room
- Family Bathroom
- Breakfast Room/Kitchen
- EPC 67

£950 PCM



Asheridge Close, Wednesfield

- Mid Terraced Property
- Two Bedroom
- Entrance Hall
- Cloakroom WC
- Kitchen
- EPC - 83

£600 PCM

NEW



Walker Road, Walsall

- Two bedroom Apartment
- Large Open Plan Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Allocated Parking
- Rating
- Gas Central Heating
- Ensuite Shower Room
- Intercom Access
- EPC TBA
- DHSS Accepted

£500 PCM

NEW

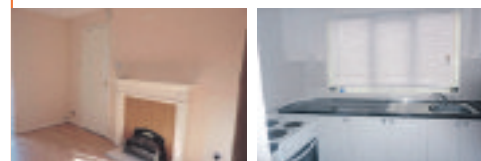


Regent House, Green Lane, Walsall

- Two Bed Apartment
- 5th Floor
- Lounge with Balcony
- Kitchen
- Double Glazing
- Lift
- Parking
- Close to Walsall Town
- Epc 83
- Sorry no DHSS

£450 PCM

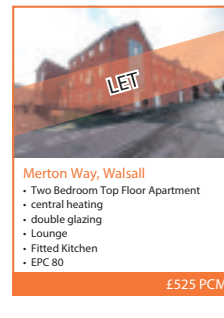
NEW



Moxhull Close, Willenhall

- One Bedroom Flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Shared Garden
- EPC 70
- DHSS Accepted

£375 PCM



Merton Way, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Top Floor Apartment
- central heating
- double glazing
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- EPC 80

£525 PCM



Well Lane, Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom

£495 PCM



- Crown Lofts, Marsh Street,
- Studio Apartment
  - located in Walsall Town Centre
  - Access of the train station
  - benefiting from underfloor heating
  - DHSS Accepted
  - Rating: 78

£450 PCM



Marton Court, Bloxwich

- First Floor Apartment
- Two Bedroom
- Lounge with French Doors
- Kitchen
- Double Glazing
- EPC 71

£450 PCM



Harrison Street, Bloxwich

- Ground upper floor Apartment
- One Bedroom
- Kitchen
- Electric Heating
- DHSS Accepted
- Rating-7

£325 PCM



Basalt Close, Walsall

- One Bedroom Flat
- Entrance Porch
- Lounge/Kitchen Diner
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- EPC- 59

£450 PCM

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- E.P.C - TBC

4 2

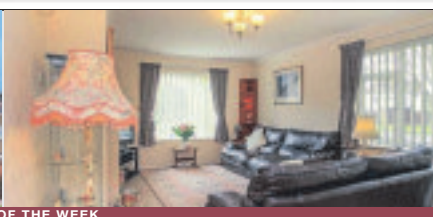
Price £285,000

**St. Marys Way**

Aldridge

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- Sought After Corner Plot
- E.P.C - D

4 1

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- Driveway & Double Garage

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Sutton Coldfield

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- E.P.C - C

4 2

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- Comprehensively Renovated
- E.P.C - C

4 2

Price £335,000

**Bosty Lane**

Aldridge

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- Improved & Well Presented
- E.P.C - D

3 1

Price £229,950

**Edinburgh Drive**

Rushall

- Semi-Detached Residence
- Improved & Extended
- E.P.C - E

3 1

Price £215,000

**SOLD****Penryn Road**

Walsall

- Delightful Detached Home
- Sought After Location
- E.P.C - D

3 1

Price £269,950

**TO LET****Ashtree Road**

Pelsall

- 1st Floor Apartment
- Sought after location
- E.P.C - C

1 1

Price £500

**LET****Rough Brook Road**

Rushall

- Semi - detached
- Well presented family home
- E.P.C - B

3 2

Price £695

**SOLD****Kingfisher Court**

Burntwood

- Delightful Family Residence
- Versatile Accommodation
- E.P.C - D

5 3

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OIEO £500,000

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### KINVER AVENUE, WILLENHALL

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### CHAPEL STREET, BILSTON

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- Refitted Bathroom
- Driveway
- Enclosed Rear Garden

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- Lounge, WC
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Detached Garage
- Gardens
- Viewing Recommended

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**PELSALL**  
LICHFIELD ROAD



- Deceptively Spacious Home
- Swimming Pool
- Through Hallway
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Conservatory
- 3/4 Bedrooms
- En-Suite, Bathroom
- Gardens, Generous Driveway

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**NEW**

**PELSALL**  
WOOD COMMON GRANGE



- Modern Family Home
- Through Hall
- Lounge/Diner
- Open Plan Kitchen
- Conservatory
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- En-Suite to Bed 1
- Driveway, Garden

**\$230,000**

**BLOXWICH**  
VICTORIA AVENUE



- Family Home
- Through Hallway
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Utility/Guests WC
- Breakfast Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Generous Driveway

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**BLOXWICH**  
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- Popular Location
- Contemporary Finish
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Refitted Kitchen
- Conservatory
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Garage, Gardens

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**NEW**

**BLOXWICH**  
BRUNDARD CLOSE



- Modern Development
- Through Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen, Dining Room
- 3 Bedrooms
- Ensuite to Bed 1
- Family Bathroom
- Gardens

**\$154,950**

**NEW**

**BLOXWICH**  
MINEWOOD CLOSE



- Modern Semi Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom
- Driveway
- Rear Garden
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WALSALL ROAD



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- Viewing Recommended

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# 0121 289 3838

# Auction

Thursday 7th  
June 2018  
at 11:30am Precisely

Villa Park , Trinity Road,  
Birmingham. B6 6HE

LOT  
TBC

### Springhill Road Brownhills

8th May 11am and 12th May 9:45am



●Guide Price £69,000 PLUS

In need of complete modernisation, this traditionally styled semi detached residence is conveniently located close to Brownhills town centre. With upvc double glazing and gas fired central heating ( not tested) the property offers a tremendous project for a buider.

LOT  
TBC

### Oakland Road Walsall

8th May 12:15pm and 12th May 11am



Occupying a prominent corner plot, this semi detached property needs full modernisation and improvement. Ideal for a builders project.

●Guide Price £55,000 PLUS

LOT  
TBC

### Scarborough Road Walsall

9th May 11:30am and 16th May 11:30am



●Guide Price £69,000 PLUS

Situated in a popular and sought after area close to the hospital, this traditionally styled semi detached property offers spacious well planned accommodation ideally suited to owner occupation or investors. In need of some modernisation the property has some upvc double glazing and central heating ( not tested).

LOT  
TBC

### Hopyard Road Walsall

9th May 12pm and 16th May 12pm



●Guide Price £69,000 PLUS

A substantial semi detached property set in a quiet cul de sac and in need of modernisation. Conveniently located with good transport links the property is ideal for an investor or builder.

LOT  
TBC

### Fordbrook Chambers Walsall

10th May 4pm and 17th May 3pm



Situated in an a very popular residential area this first floor flat is ideal for an investor. The property has already been modernised and with all amenities close at hand it comprises: Lounge/ Kitchen (4.3m x 4.2m), Bedroom One (3.3m x 4.1m), Bathroom (2.1m x 2.6m)

●Guide Price £50,000 PLUS

LOT  
TBC

### Heath Bridge Close Rushall

8th May 11:45am and 12th May 10:30am



●Guide Price £80,000 PLUS

Set at the head of a quiet cul de sac semi detached bungalow is in need of complete modernisation, but offers tremendous scope for improvement and extensions ( subject to planning etc) Conveniently located with good public transport services to Pelsall village and Walsall town centre.

LOT  
TBC

### Haskell Street Walsall

9th May 11am and 16th May 11am



●Guide Price £75,000 PLUS

This Victorian mid terraced property offers gas fired central heating and some upvc double glazing and would make an ideal purchase for a first time buyer or investor. Conveniently located in a popular residential area within a short distance of the town centre all amenities are close at hand.

LOT  
TBC

### Delves Road Walsall

9th May and 16th May both at 10.30 am



Conveniently located in a popular residential area of Walsall, this traditionally styled semi detached property has gas fired central heating and double glazing. In need of some modernisation, the property needs to be viewed to appreciate its potential. Ideal for either owner occupation or investment.

●Guide Price £135,000 PLUS

LOT  
TBC

### Willows Road Sheffield

9th May 10am and 16th May 10am,



●Guide Price £138,500 PLUS

Situated in the popular Chuckery area of Walsall this traditionally styled semi detached property has gas fired central heating and double glazing but is in need of modernisation. The spacious well planned accommodation is convenient for Walsall town centre with all amenities.

LOT  
TBC

### Bowater Road Yardley

By appointment with the auctioneers



●Guide Price £100,000 PLUS

Situated in a quiet cul de sac, this mid town house has double glazing and gas central heating and would make an ideal purchase for a first time buyer or investor. In need of some basic improvements, the property is convenient for both Stechford and Yardley.

LOT  
TBC

### Bryan Budd Close Rowley Regis

By appointment with the Auctioneers



●Guide Price £100,000 PLUS

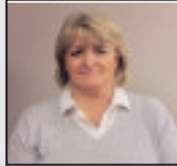
Situated on a popular new development, with open aspect across golf course to the rear, this modern 3 storey mid town house offers generous accommodation with the benefit of gas central heating and double glazing. In need of some cosmetic improvements the property is subject to cash offers only and would therefore suit an investor.

●Guides are provided as an indication of each seller's minimum expectation. They are not necessarily figures which a property will sell for and may change at any time prior to the auction. Each property will be offered subject to a Reserve (a figure below which the Auctioneer cannot sell the property during the auction) which we expect will be set within the Guide Range or no more than 10% above a single figure Guide





Paul Marrion - Partner



Kathy Marrion - Partner

Energy Rating - E



**Stafford Road  
Bloxwich**

Situated on one of the borough's most sought after residential roads, this superb character detached house offers the discerning purchaser a rare opportunity to acquire a deceptively spacious family home which has been lovingly maintained and improved by the current owners whilst still keeping some original features. The gas centrally heated and PVCu double glazed (where



specified) accommodation briefly includes:- Enclosed Storm Porch, Entrance Hall/Stairs, Fitted Two Reception Rooms, Breakfast Kitchen, Three excellent Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom with separate Shower Cubicle, Single Car Garage, Large driveway affording off road parking for several vehicles and substantial Gardens with mature and private rear aspect.

**£389,950**

Energy Rating - E



**Well Lane  
Leamore**

- Well Presented End of Terrace
- Gas Central Heating
- PVCu Double Glazing (where specified)
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms,
- Driveway, Rear Garden.

**£119,950**

Energy Rating - C



**Victoria Avenue  
Bloxwich**

- Newly refurbished Semi-Detached House
- PVCu Double Glazed and Gas Centrally Heated
- Front Lounge, Rear Kitchen
- Down Stairs WC
- Three Bedrooms
- Newly Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Gravelled Driveway
- Low Maintenance Rear Garden

**£125,000**

Energy Rating - D



**Shelton Close  
Wednesbury**

- Link detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining area, conservatory, Fitted kitchen
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Garage, fore court and garden
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- Must Be Viewed

**£184,950**

Energy Rating - D



**Carrick Close  
Pelsall**

- Open views to front
- Extended Semi-Detached Family Home
- PVCu Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Three Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Shower Room
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Three Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- Large Tandem Garage

**£250,000**

Park Home



**Lodgefield Park  
Staffordshire**

- Well Maintained Park Home
- Being for the Over 55'S
- Electric Heating, Hallway
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen, Utility Area
- 2 Double Bedrooms, En-Suite
- Family Bathroom
- Parking, Gardens

**£95,000**

Energy Rating - D



**Kenilworth Crescent  
Wolverhampton**

- Ground Floor Maisonette
- PVCu Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Fore and Rear Gardens
- SORRY NO DSS, PETS OR SMOKERS
- ?180 reference fee applies

**£495**

Energy Rating - D



**Darlaston Road  
Walsall**

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge/dining room, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms
- shower room/WC
- Workshop
- parking, gardens

**£129,500**

Energy Rating - TBC



**Buxton Close  
Lower Farm**

- End Of Terrace
- Immaculately Presented
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen, Conservatory & Shower Room
- Two Good Size Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Garage

**£144,950**

Energy Rating - TBC



**Martley Road  
Pelsall**

- Well presented Semi-Detached
- Front Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen / Diner Conservatory
- 3 Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Detached Single Garage
- Mature Rear Garden

**£170,000**

Energy Rating - C



**Barn Owl Drive  
Pelsall**

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated & PVCu double glazed
- Guests cloak/WC, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner
- 3 bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC
- Conservatory
- Garage & neatly presented fore
- Rear Gardens

**£174,950**

Energy Rating - B



**Penmire Grove  
Walsall**

- Three Storey Town House
- PVCu double glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Fitted Kitchen, Rear Lounge/Diner
- 3 Bedrooms, en-suite
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- Must Be Viewed

**£179,995**

Energy Rating - D



**Thurlstone Road  
Walsall**

- Detached Bungalow
- Well Presented
- Gas Central Heating, PVCu double glazing
- 2 Bedrooms, Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Bathroom
- Garage, Car Port Driveway
- Fore and Rear Gardens

**£224,950**

Energy Rating - D



**Pine Close  
Great Wyrley**

- Link detached bungalow
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazing
- Kitchen, lounge
- 2 double bedrooms, shower room/WC
- Single car garage
- Driveway
- Gardens

**£230,000**

Energy Rating - E



**Stafford Road  
Great Wyrley**

- Deceptively Spacious Detached Bungalow
- Gas Central Heating, PVCu Double Glazing
- 2 Bedrooms
- Rear Lounge, Sun Lounge/Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Modern Bathroom/WC
- Side Attached Garage
- Large Landscaped Gardens

**£289,950**

Energy Rating - D



**Paddock Gardens  
Walsall**

- Modern Detached Family Home
- Three Reception Rooms
- Kitchen, 5 Bedrooms
- (Master and Second with en suites)
- Family Bathroom
- Double Garage
- Driveway
- Large Rear Garden

**£600,000**

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Energy Rating - C



**Virola Court  
Bloxwich**

- Spacious Penthouse Apartment
- Allocated Parking
- Heated & Double Glazed
- Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- En-Suite, Family Bathroom
- Communal Gardens
- No Onward Chain

**£110,000**

Energy Rating - C



**Cemetery Road  
Willenhall**

- Mid Town House
- Electrically heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Fitted kitchen, rear lounge
- 2 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Parking and Gardens
- SORRY NO DSS, PETS OR SMOKERS
- ?180 reference fee applies

**£500**

www.marrion.co.uk





# Refined and practical family vehicle

By John Griffiths

**There's a certain expectation when you get behind the wheel of a Skoda: you know it's going to be a good, dependable drive.**

Industry pundits agree – the company has scooped a handful of awards already this year – and so do car buyers, with sales in January not only bucking the industry trend but actually rising by almost 11 per cent compared to the previous year.

No doubt new and improved models have played a part, like the award-winning seven-seat Kodiaq SUV launched last year.

So, with a seemingly insatiable demand for SUVs, it's no surprise that Skoda has followed up that car's success with its 'little' brother, the Karoq.

Not that it's exactly little: it's a mid-size SUV, a five-seater, which is actually larger (and with rather more conventional styling) than the Yeti which it replaces.

There's a good range of petrol and diesel engines, the option of a four wheel drive version, and high levels of equipment and technology across the range.

The test car was the top of the range 2.0 TDI in SE L trim, which at £27,795 isn't cheap but stands up well to comparison with any of its many competitors – including the top seller, the similar sized (but lower powered) Nissan Qashqai.

The four wheel drive system is only available with the 2.0 litre diesel, which comes with a choice of power outputs – 150 or 190PS.

There's also a 1.6 diesel option, and two turbo charged petrol engines of 1.5 and 1.0 litre capacity.

A touch of the 'off road' button on the centre console sets the car up for making the most of the all-wheel drive system.

The 2.0TDI is a familiar engine, much appreciated by thousands of Octavia and Superb taxi drivers for its longevity and reliability. In the Karoq, it does the 0 to

62mph sprint in a very respectable 8.7 seconds and yet is capable of 56.5mpg in official tests, with a CO2 rating of 132g/km.

Official tests carried out in a laboratory and always optimistic, so I was gratified to average between 48 and 51 in real world driving.

Many private buyers, though, may be tempted by the 1.0 turbo petrol which starts at the cheaper end of the range – just under £21,000. Don't be put off by the lack of cubes, as it still turns out 115PS, is only slightly slower than the big diesel and returns very similar economy figures.

But it isn't so much the stark statistics which are so important as the manner in which the Karoq performs.

## Precision

The Karoq is up there with the best in class in terms of refinement: quiet, smooth and with the dynamics of a competent hatchback. You get the benefits of the higher, SUV seating position and benefit, but without the downside of a rock 'n' roll ride, and a precision through the corners which will please the more enthusiastic driver.

It doesn't feel big or heavy: it feels light and agile, like a physically smaller, lighter car.

Inside, there's room for five adults with plenty of head and legroom all round. The 'VarioFlex' system gives you three rear seats which fold down individually, or can be removed altogether, and there are plenty of storage solutions dotted around the cabin. The test car also had aircraft-style tray tables to help keep those in the back occupied.

The boot is family friendly too with 588 litres of space rising to 1,810 litres with the rear seats folded – significantly more than the Yeti.

The test car, as the range flagship, was naturally very well equipped but even entry-level models come with alloy wheels, electric windows and mirrors, privacy glass, multi-function steering wheel, multiple airbags, one-touch cruise control and speed limiter, roof rails, rear



From the front the Karoq bears a clear resemblance to the large Kodiaq

parking sensors and front radar assist, with autonomous emergency braking if needed.

The SE L also came with alcantara upholstery, satnav with an eight-inch touch screen display offering voice control, and a comprehensive infotainment system including audio, connectivity and a Wi-Fi smartlink system.

Dual zone climate control, a driver fatigue centre, a full range of electronic safety systems, LED lights (including adaptive front lights), heated front seats, pedestrian alert, tyre pressure monitor and rear view camera are among

the other features. And, of course, a Skoda tradition – an umbrella tucked away under the passenger seat,

A heated windscreen and washer nozzles added £250 to the SE L's list price.

The Karoq is a worthy successor to the Yeti: bigger and with a rather more sleek and conventional look (but that's a matter of personal preference). From the front, there is a clear family resemblance to the large Kodiaq.

Whether or not you go for the flagship four wheel drive version, it is refined and practical family transport – with its excellent driving characteristics the icing on the cake.



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Official fuel consumption for the ŠKODA CITIGO range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 51.4 (5.5) to 57.7 (4.9); Extra Urban 72.4 (3.9) to 76.4 (3.7); Combined 64.2 (4.4) to 68.9 (4.1). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the ŠKODA CITIGO range are 103 to 96 g/km. Standard EU test figures are for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.



# Stonic is not supersonic but it does its job very well indeed

By Sharon Walters

Kia joined Europe's fastest-growing market at just the right time last year. The small (B-segment) SUV has quickly populated our roads and the very different looking Stonic is making its mark.

This year Kia expects to sell between 8,000 and 10,000 in the UK and so far looks to be on track.

It was designed in Europe at the company's Frankfurt design studios and was originally intended only for Europe and thoroughly tested on European roads which gave it a good start against others in the class. But it impressed Kia's Korean home market that it's going to be sold there as well.

In the UK there is a five-model line-up based on grade 2 and First Edition trim levels. All versions offer an extensive package of connectivity features, including links to Android Auto and Apple CarPlay via pre-downloaded smartphone apps, while advanced electronic driver assistance systems such as autonomous emergency braking, lane departure warning and automatic switching between high and low headlight beams are available.

It's based on the Rio supermini and is slightly longer, taller and rides higher to give it an SUV stance. But it doesn't look like a Rio as it has a bespoke body and



The First Edition has colour accents in the cabin

interior – and how I like the exterior and interior. As mentioned earlier, it looks very different and makes a pleasant change to many of the opposition in the sector. And my test car First Edition stood out even more thanks to its two-tone paintwork with the roof, wing mirror casings and rear spoiler picked out in either black, lime green, red or orange, depending on the choice of main body colour, and there are colour accents in the interior on the seats and around the lower centre console and display screen areas. Mine had the lime green on the graphite and while at first it looked a little 'in your face' I really grew to like it.

All versions have plenty of equipment, with an extensive range of active safety features and up-to-the-minute connectivity in First Edition versions.

There is a 7.0-inch display with a DAB radio and MP3 compatibility in grade 2, and in the First Edition this is upgraded to a 7.0-inch touchscreen navigation and infotainment system featuring Kia Connected Services with TomTom™, Android Auto™ and Apple CarPlay™ smartphone integration are standard across the range.

All models have 17-inch alloy wheels, air conditioning, all-round electric windows with an automatic function on the driver's side, roof rails, rear parking sensors, remote locking, electrically adjustable heated door mirrors, a 3.5-inch supervision cluster, Bluetooth with music streaming, automatic headlight control, bi-function projection headlamps and cornering lights and LED daytime running lights, and a whole lot more.

The First Edition adds more including smart key entry system and engine start/stop button, automatic air conditioning, LED rear lights, privacy glass on the rear side windows and tailgate and heated front seats. It is not the highest quality of trims (but then this car doesn't cost enough to warrant that!) but is perfectly acceptable and good quality. Controls are not over complicated and everything is well laid out.

Three engines are available, headed by Kia's little jewel, the 1.0-litre T-GDi unit delivering 118bhp.

This was my power in the test car and it is a little gem indeed. It took on a lengthy motorway run with no trouble with plenty of poke when needed and cruised along very nicely. Official figures show 56.5mpg with emissions of 115g/km. I managed around 52 but then I wasn't driving in 'laboratory' conditions. There's also a 1.4-litre multi-point injection (MPI) naturally aspirated 98bhp petrol engine and the 108bhp 1.6-litre CRDi turbodiesel.

Add the seven year/100,00 mile warranty and this car deserves a test.

Prices start at £16,295 on-the-road.



Two tone paintwork makes the Stonic stand out on the road

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Kia range of vehicles are between Urban: 29.1 (9.7) – 80.7 (3.5), Extra-Urban: 46.3 (6.1) – 94.2 (3.0) and Combined: 38.2 (7.4) – 88.3 (3.2). The official CO2 emissions for the Kia range of vehicles are between 86 – 189g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. 7 year /100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For terms and exclusions visit [kia.co.uk](http://kia.co.uk) or see your local dealer. \*You will not own the vehicle until all payments are made. T&Cs apply. Subject to status. 18s or over. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle. (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Kia Motors Finance RH1 1SR. Price and specification is subject to change without notice. Offers subject to stock availability, terms and conditions. Acorn Kia is a credit broker not a lender for this financial promotion. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction. Pictures for illustration purposes only.



# What a lot you get and fun to drive

By Carmel Stewart

One of the most notable aspects of the multi award-winning Peugeot 3008 GT is that you get an awful lot of everything for your money – kit, technology, space and, with the right set-up, fun.

The GT model is positioned as the top-of-the-range 3008 SUV range for good reason. It is powered by a 2.0litre turbo diesel BlueHDi 180ps engine with stop/start. Linked to the PSA EAT – Efficient Automatic (six-speed) Transmission, it travels from 0 to 62mph in a tad under nine seconds which is not world beating but feels a whole lot faster. Top speed is 131mph which is speedy enough for most of us. Those with a delicate right foot can expect an average 58.9mpg and 124g/km CO2emissions.

Peugeot has also added a few visual pointers for the seriously observant – integrated wheel arch protective extensions, 19-inch, two-tone diamond-cut alloys, double chrome exhaust pipes and GT badging on the outside plus soft leather interior with copper double-stitch trim detail, driver seat multipoint massage function (blissfully including shoulders), electric adjustment and memory as standard on the classy inside.

Peugeot's brilliant panoramic opening glass roof with electric interior blind and blue ambient lighting is also included in the £34,210 price as are rear parking sensors, adaptive cruise control, foot operated smart electric boot opening, heated front seats and that all-important Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility.

As with all 3008s, the GT includes Peugeot's new i-Cockpit which houses pretty well all



On the road, the GT is smooth to drive

the 21st Century technology you are likely to need – and then some. It includes a digital instrument panel which the driver can personalise to show as much or as little info as required and an eight-inch touch screen with an excellent 3D sat nav.

Neat little toggles set below the central console make for easy access short cuts to on-screen information.

The driver is offered every comfort known to man (or woman) – a high driving position, excellent all-round visibility and an eight-way electrically adjustable heated seat with massage function. The sporty flat-bottomed/topped leather GT logoed steering wheel and blue ambient lighting add a touch of class, should one be needed.



Peugeot's brilliant panoramic opening glass roof with electric interior blind and blue ambient lighting

On the road, the GT is as smooth to drive as it is to look at. Sharp steering coupled with neat and tidy handling make for a very relaxed, enjoyable driving experience which even those big wheels can't ruffle.

The centrally positioned dial allows for an easy drive mode selection – normal, snow, mud, sand and ESP off – and this in a car

which, while having the appearance of a 4x4, is in fact 2WD.

What it does have is Peugeot's excellent intelligent grip control together with hill descent to complement the settings.

The Sport selector adjusts the steering parameters and gearing ratios but, for me on long motorway runs, it did not really add

much to the relaxed, composed, thoroughly enjoyable driving experience.

Those who like to keep fit should consider the electric bike option. The e F01 costs £1,700 plus £400 for the charge docking station.

A GT Line version of the 3008 is also available, giving buyers a choice of engines/transmissions coupled with sports styling.



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USED CARS from only **£25** PER WEEK

**PRICE  
PROMISE**

Find any like for like car and we promise to refund you double the difference in 7 days\*

up to **5 YEARS 0%APR\***

**NIL DEPOSIT\***

deals available on every used car

...making it Easy!

**5 Year  
Guarantee**  
Available on all used cars

**Over  
4000 Cars**  
to choose from  
in group stock

**£1500  
Minimum  
Part Ex**  
on selected vehicles



Representative Finance example	Cash Price (Inc. VAT)	£7,995.00	Interest Charges	£1,005.00	Total Payable	£9,000.00
259 Weekly payments	£25.00	260 Weeks	Option to purchase fee	£0.00	Fixed Rate	3.66%
Customer Deposit	£2,500.00	Amount to Finance	1 Final Payment of	£25.00	Representative APR	7.33%

Number  
**Stoneacre**  
Motor Group



Armstrong Way, Willenhall, WV13 2QU

Tel: 01902 489459

**www.stoneacre.co.uk**

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday 9.00am to 7.00pm, Saturday 9.00am to 5.00pm, Sunday 10.30am to 4.30pm

**92% JudgeService**  
of our customers would recommend  
Stoneacre to a friend

**Motability**  
The leading car finance for disabled people

Mark Tournon  
Jon Goddard  
Motability Specialists



# Local Specialists

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Self Assessment and all accountancy services for the self employed, rental incomes, partnerships and limited companies.

**01543 481329**

Email: ollerenshaws@btinternet.com  
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### MATT WALTERS DIGITAL AERIALS

your LOCAL Aerial/Satellite specialist  
Aerials - Satellite Dishes Fitted From £65  
ANY LIKE FOR LIKE  
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Senior Citizen Discounts  
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SKY HD/ SKY+/MULTIROOM  
SKY Q specialist  
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A LOCAL BUSINESS YOU CAN TRUST  
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### Simply Doors Walsall

Internal & External Door Suppliers & Fitters

6 internal  
pre-finished doors  
fully fitted for  
**£450**  
complete with handles

External UPVC and composite doors  
also available

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM  
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www.simplydoorswalsall.co.uk

Opening Hours  
Mon-Fri  
10am - 5pm  
Sat  
10am - 2pm

## Cleaning Services

### A.J.S Cleaning Services

Carpet cleaning, Window cleaning,  
Guttering cleaned  
Jet washing & floors resealed

Contact  
Ade 07788 552306  
Or Jen 07787 498866  
Jenfisher684.jf@gmail.com

## Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

### J P Cleaning

CARPETS, UPHOLSTERY,  
CURTAINS, & LEATHER  
QUALITY CLEANING AT  
AFFORDABLE PRICES  
CALL JOHN YOUR LOCAL  
CLEANING SPECIALIST  
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07932 766162  
Est 1994

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REWIRING EXPERTS.CO.UK  
All domestic and commercial  
electrical works undertaken  
Home rewiring from £800  
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GLAZING REPAIRS, DOORS & WINDOW REPAIRS  
We repair, replace and service any misty glass  
Windows, Doors & Conservatories  
Handles, hinges, window & door locks adjusted & replaced  
WE PRICE MATCH  
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07748 108035 Est 30 years  
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12 WELLINGTON DRIVE, CANNOCK WS11 1PU

## Driveways

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TARMACADAM CONCRETE BLOCK PAVING  
LEADING DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL CONTRACTORS COVERING  
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• Domestic Drives • Patios • Tennis Courts construction  
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- Patios • Block Paving & Gravel Drives • Fencing • Sheds
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PANEL SIZE	FEATHEREDGE		8-BAR OVERLAP	
	STANDARD	TANALISED	STANDARD	TANALISED
6' x 6'	£25.00	£27.00	£17.00	£18.50
6' x 5'	£22.50	£24.50	£16.00	£17.50
6' x 4'	£20.50	£22.50	£14.50	£16.00
6' x 3'	£18.50	£20.50	£13.50	£15.00
6' x 2'	£16.00	£17.00	£12.00	£14.00
Arch-Bow Tops @ £2.00 extra			10 Bar H/Duty @ £1.00 extra	
Trellis & Picket Panels also at Lower Prices				

\*GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES ON SUPPLY & FIT\*  
CONCRETE POSTS & GRAVEL BOARDS, TIMBER GATES, BALLAST, ETC.  
TEL: 01543 674688, 07886369958 or 07828693442  
UNIT 7E, ZONE 4, BURNTWOOD BUSINESS PARK, WS7 3XD

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★ Discounts for OAP's  
★ Insurance Work ★ Lead Work  
★ Ridge Tiles Replaced  
★ Flat Roofs ★ Pointing  
★ Rubber Roofing (E.P.D.M.)  
★ Chimney Repairs ★ Fascias & Gutters  
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FAMILY RUN - FREE QUOTES

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**FREE QUOTES**

You will be blown away by our prices!

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07770 954073  
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## Gardening

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Garden Maintenance & Tree Felling

Tree Felling

Garden Maintenance

All Debris Removed

Call Jason for a No Obligation Quote  
Fully Insured

Tel: 01922 443193

Mob: 07809 431703

Visit Website for FREE call back  
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## Gardening

Chase TREE CARE

A locally based, family run company established in 2007.  
Since the owner is a fully qualified Tree Surgeon with 25 years experience in all aspects of professional Tree Surgery.  
Fully insured, professional, competitive and friendly.  
For a free no-obligation competitive quote from an expert call:  
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City & Guilds NPTC

### Woodman Tree Services

Domestic & Commercial  
Council Approve Contracts  
Over 30 yrs Experience  
Fully insured

Qualified, all work to BS 3998 standards

\* Felling \* Reshaping \* Pruning  
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\* Stump Removal \* Landlord Contracts  
24 hour Emergency Call Out  
Logs and wood chip for sale

R.G. Wood ARB  
Home: 01543 258108  
Mobile: 07947 352960

### Lawn/Grass Cutting Services

Discounts for senior citizens  
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Evenings  
(01543) 262395

### Local Specialists



## Landscapers

### WILLIAMS LANDSCAPE SERVICES

Competitive Prices on  
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Slabbing, Fencing and Turfing

**FREE QUOTES**

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### C.A. Plastering

For competitive quotes on all your refurbishment  
needs on plastering, boarding, overboarding,  
partitions, re-skimming and artex covering.

No job too small  
**07538 718264**

To advertise your business and reach more than 72,000 potential customers...

1

Call us on...  
**01543 465341**

2

E-mail us at...  
sarah.winfield@expressandstar.co.uk

3

Post to...  
Sarah Jones, Walsall Chronicle,  
Queen Square, Cannock. WS11 1ES



# Local Specialists



Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesmen to deal with your needs and requirements.

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### Boiler Medics (West Midlands)

Over 30 years' experience

- Servicing • Repairs
- Gas Safety Checks
- Factory Trained Engineers
- All Work Guaranteed



Don't lose your boiler warranty book your service now  
Call 01922 446678 or 07973 784593

**The Heating Repairman**  
We Fix, Service and Fit all Boilers  
For all your boiler breakdowns  
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**07970 310068**

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WORCESTER Glow-worm

## Roofing

### WALSALL ROOFING SPECIALISTS

AS RECOMMENDED ON

thebestofwalsall

Flat Roof Specialists

- Slate and Tile Repairs
- Flat Roofs, EPDM
- Rubber Roofing
- uPVC Soffits and Fascias
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- Guttering Repairs
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CALL MARK:

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www.walsallroofingspecialists.co.uk

If an ad is wrong, the ASA is here to put it right.

# Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

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- 4 Pets & Animals
- 5 Business & Farming
- 6 Property
- 7 Jobs
- 8 Motoring
- 9 Local Information
- 10 Personals

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IT'S EASY

For items up to £250  
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Simply press the free ad icon.  
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Private advertisers only.

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**By Phone 01902 317878**  
8.30am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri.  
Closed Sat/Sun and Bank Holidays

**Online**  
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

**In person**  
At your local Express & Star Office.  
Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm  
Monday - Friday for the next day's  
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### Roy Quinton Funeral Directors

Serving your local community for over 25 years

Walsall

01922 898 561

677 Bloxwich Road, Leamore WS3 2BD

Call us for advice and support  
24 hours a day

Prepaid funeral plans available



royquinton.co.uk

## Turn To Us For Help and Support

In your time of need  
we'll take care of all the  
funeral arrangements.

- Est. 1907
- 24 hour service

### G. Gibbs Funeral Directors

44 All Saints Way  
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0121 553 0442

Dignity  
Part of Dignity plc. A British Company.

## 1 Family

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**COLLAPSIBLE PRIDE  
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£300.

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WREKIN STAIRLIFTS recondi-  
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ALL SPARES & ACCESSORIES  
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24 hour repair service! All cycles fully guaranteed

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Simply the best  
Ring Dave on  
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Wolverhampton

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WEDNESDAY  
BOOTSAL**  
Moving Ivy House Farm, A461,  
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**AFTERNOON  
BEST BOOTSAL**  
EVERY SUNDAY  
Gates open 10am  
Cocksparrow Lane, Huntington,  
Cannock, WS12 4PB  
Sellers £5  
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**CAR BOOT SALES!**  
Every Sunday  
and Bank Holiday Monday  
Muckley Corner, Hall Lane,  
Lichfield, WS14 0BE  
Booters £5  
6.00am-1pm  
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**CAR BOOT SALES!**  
Every Sunday  
and Bank Holiday Monday  
Muckley Corner, Hall Lane,  
Lichfield, WS14 0BE  
Booters £5  
6.00am-1pm  
07538 842842

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**WANTED SMALL 2 BERTH  
CARAVAN**  
to be towed by Suzuki Jimny  
4 x 4, 1300cc.  
Pay around £600-800.  
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**A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW**  
35x12 caravans from £10,000. Gym  
Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further?  
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Aristocrat touring caravan,  
2007, 4 berth, fixed bed.  
Awning and porch awning  
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£5,500 ono  
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MONARCH**  
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Serviced annually.  
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828277. sales@clarachbay.com

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at the LOWEST PRICES**

**COSTA BRAVA • DISNEYLAND PARIS**  
10 DAYS/7 NIGHTS  
ALL INCLUSIVE  
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2 or 3 NIGHTS  
ROOM ONLY  
FROM £194 PER ADULT  
PRICES INCLUDE COACH TRAVEL & CHANNEL CROSSING  
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**Caravan and camper**  
all types of repairs,  
Collection considered  
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Anything considered  
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## HOLIDAY HOME FOR SALE

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luxurious and spacious model  
£33,995 on an immaculate & family  
friendly 5 star park in the breath  
taking location of historic Harlech  
with spectacular beaches, castle  
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www.minydonpark.co.uk  
call Jayne or Carl 01766 780286

## Holiday Home for sale -2017 Willerby Wrekin

**BRAND NEW** Limited edition, enhanced  
features £28,995 on a stunning 5 star park  
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Severn with private fishing & stunning  
Bowling Pavilion Nr. Shrewsbury.  
Will appeal to retired people & couples.  
Call Ron & Margaret  
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## Sports & Leisure

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## holidays

## Self Catering Holidays

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covered by a recognised bonding or  
insurance scheme.

## Yorkshire

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www.meadowholidays.com

## Holidays Abroad

## 3 Home & Services

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£17 each (inc vat)  
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TRENT VALLEY TURF  
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Made to Measure at Competi-  
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Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also  
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PAYS TOP CASH ON ANY  
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Any type of gold wanted, e.g. 9 carat  
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their responsibility to inform the  
publishers of any mistakes or in-  
accuracies on the first day of publica-  
tion.

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before agreeing to the sale of any  
of their items.



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## PC's, Laptops & Accessories

## CLIENT COMPUTERS

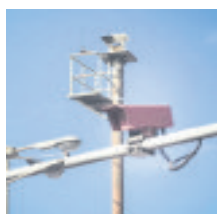
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Bili - TV Link

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specialists at your service

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**01902 319 191**

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Driveway Restoration Specialists  
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All aspects of Landscaping, Fencing, Patios, Walls  
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WE CAN TRANSFORM OR MAINTAIN YOUR GARDEN  
• Garden Walls • Turfing  
• Patios • General Gardening  
• Fencing • NO JOB TOO SMALL  
For high quality jobs done with pride and at a very fair price.  
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## OAKTREE TREE SERVICES

Covers all aspects of tree surgery, grass cutting and hedges. Garden clearances, turfing and fencing

07427 060382

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All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.  
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk  
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

**P.W.C LANDSCAPE SERVICES**  
All garden, tree and jet washing work undertaken  
FENCING - SUPPLY & FIT  
WE WILL BEAT ANY QUOTE!  
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Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.  
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Sat 8am - 12noon  
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www.portwayfencing.co.uk

## CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"



"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."

Michael - Portway Fencing

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

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• Boilers • Cookers  
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**HARVEYS HOUSE CLEARANCES**  
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A golfer is put through his paces at the recently set-up training academy



Fishley Park Driving Range is home to the Bloxwich Golf Club Teaching Academy



The surface of the greens at Bloxwich is the envy of many



Enjoying the traditional facilities at the 19th hole

# Club's driving ambition to offer the best in golf

## SPORTING FEATURE

By David Fletcher

**IN May 1919, greengrocer Howard Pinson purchased 96 acres of green belt land just north of Bloxwich from the then landowner, the Duke of Sutherland.**

The purpose of the purchase was to create a golf course and the cost of the land at that time was a mere £55.

In addition to the purchase of the land, an adjacent Georgian Manor House was acquired from another source and the formation of Bloxwich Golf Club as we know it today was in set in motion.

In those early years only nine holes were possible but in 1924 a Board of Directors was formed and the club officially registered. The registration took place in May 1924 but in July of the same year plans were put forward to complete the full 18 holes to create the basis of the course as we know it today.

During the Second World War years the club and many of the members became heavily involved. The threat of German troops landing by means of gliders resulted in ditches being dug by the Army across a number of fairways in an effort to prevent a successful landing.

The evidence of these ditches can still be seen today. A squad of 62 soldiers and officers were billeted at the golf club with the soldiers in tents on the course and the officers in the clubhouse.

They were all made honorary members of the club for the duration of the war.

In January 1945 after the war had concluded entrance fees to the club were reinstated and golf started in earnest once again.

The ownership of the club was in the hands of the original shareholders and their family members, but in 1987 the directors agreed a proposal to reorganise the club in such a way as to ensure its long term future as a members club and to eliminate any possible private 'for profit' development motive.

The ultimate aim was to hand over the control of the club to its members to perpetuate golf at Blox-



The clubhouse at Bloxwich Golf Club

wich. Bloxwich Golf Club was purchased by its members in 1988, the money being raised by an interest free loan of £400 paid by approximately 300 members. The creation of Bloxwich Golf Club (1988) Ltd was complete. Over the years there have been many significant changes to the course layout with the clear objective being for all year round golf at Bloxwich.

### Hazards

Natural hazards such as pools and open water courses have been extended to improve drainage and specialised work has been carried out on the greens for the same reason. The putting surfaces have made the greens at Bloxwich the envy of many.

The recently completed winter programme of work has seen many tees being extended and the 15th has become the new feature hole after the lengthening of the hole and the elevating of the championship tee.

Another exciting development at the golf club is the recently formed Bloxwich Golf Club Teaching Academy and Golf Club Fitting Centre based close by at Fishley Park Driving Range, Little Bloxwich. Blox-

wich PGA Professionals, Richard Dance and John Bandurak have set up a teaching hub open to all. In addition to tuition and invaluable advice on appropriate equipment for those new to the game, they are also both available to help golfers of all standards to improve their game.

In terms of membership to the club, Bloxwich welcomes new members and has no waiting list or initial joining fee. Ladies, gentlemen, juniors and seniors are all welcome to enjoy the course and the facilities of the infamous '19th hole'.

Current club president Paul Boynton said: "These are very exciting times for Bloxwich Golf Club. With golf continuing to grow in popularity we want to position our club in offering the very best opportunities for local people to come along and enjoy what is a great game."

"We extend a very warm welcome to visiting golfers and golf societies and to local companies who want to offer golf days to their customers."

All enquiries initially to Stephanie Haywood, general manager, on 01922 476593 ext 1.

## Goal-den Barry sets tournament alight

A YOUNG Baggies striker has caught the eye by smashing in 10 goals in just five games for an England youth team. Louie Barry racked up the figures for England under-15s at a recent tournament in Italy.

The 14-year-old, who hails from Sutton Coldfield has been at the club since the age of six. Albion academy manager Mark Harrison said: "To score 10 goals in five games for England is outstanding. The previous best in that tournament was three goals."

As well as Barry, Albion's Rayhaan Tulloch has international honours this season and earned a call-up to the European under-17s championships. Sam Field is in the England u-20s squad, defenders Nathan Ferguson and Kane Wilson have both been called up to England u-18s, while Morgan Rogers has featured for England u-16s.

Chisom Afoka and Rico Richards have been called up to England u-15s, Dara O'Shea has captained Ireland u-19s, and Pablo Martinez and goalkeeper Adam Pryzbek have been called up to Wales u-19s.

## Grand Slam trophy to honour Bristow

GOVERNING body the PDC will remember the late former world champion Eric Bristow MBE by naming the Grand Slam of Darts in his memory.

The legendary five-time world champion, one of the game's most recognisable stars, passed away on April 5, aged 60. He also won the World Masters five times and later helped to form the Professional Darts Corporation.

A member of the PDC Hall of Fame, he will now be remembered at the cross-code Grand Slam of Darts at the Aldersley Leisure Village, Wolverhampton, with this year's players competing to win The Eric Bristow Trophy.

PDC chairman Barry Hearn said: "Eric's achievements marked him out as the greatest player of his generation and he'll be remembered forever as the original superstar of darts."

"As such, we felt that it was fitting to introduce The Eric Bristow Trophy, which will be presented to the winner of the Grand Slam of Darts from 2018."

## Wolves bring Money Shop deal to an end

WOLVES have paid off controversial shirt sponsor The Money Shop – paving the way for a multi-million pound shirt sponsorship deal as they head into the Premier League.

The club angered fans when signing a three-year deal with the payday loan firm in 2016.

Their name has been emblazoned on Wolves' shirts for the past two seasons and was due to form part of next season's home and away kits.

However, Wolves have ended the contentious deal a year early with what is likely to be a substantial pay-off.

Owners Fosun will now look to attract a big-money sponsor on a lucrative contract as they prepare for Premier League football and the commercial exposure that comes with it.

More than 13,000 people had signed a petition opposing the deal in 2016 complaining that the company's practices 'do not fit with the ethics of the football club'.





## League gets into its swing with results

THE Birmingham Cricket League finally gathered momentum following a week's delay and a false start a week ago. West Bromwich Dartmouth were three wicket winners over Walsall at Gorway as they chased down the home side's total of 190-5, was built around a fifth wicket stand of 74 between debutant Shoaib Akhtar (58 not out) and Bruce Thomason (52).

Dartmouth's win came with three balls remaining after Kadeer Ali hit 61, supported by 39 not out from Andrew Umeed. Last year's Young Player of the Year Amit John opened up with 40 for Dartmouth who lie in second place, thanks to the bowling bonus point they earned from last week's abandoned game against Barnet Green.

Following a half-century the week before against Shrewsbury, Imandeep Kang (48) top scored, again, for Moseley, as his side struggled to 134-8 at Smethwick. Sajid Ahmedzai took 3-11 for Smethwick, who collapsed to 69 all out with Yadvinder Singh returning 8-4 from 10 overs.

Wolverhampton edged out Kenilworth Wardens, at Danescourt by two wickets, with 10 balls left. Wardens, batting first, totalled 238-6. Newcomer Gary Maynard top scored with 89 and Prerak Mankad added 59, while another player making his club debut, Jordan Bulpitt, took 3-54 for Wolverhampton. Worcestershire prospect Zen Malik (97) and skipper James Hammond (53) batted Wolverhampton into a strong position despite 4-49 from Mankad.

Wombourne made it two wins from two games in division two with a four-wicket success at Coventry after dismissing the home side for 146. Coventry & NW had been 45-7. Alex Roy took 4-27.

Opener Ruki De Silva (44) saw the score to 111, before he was dismissed, to set up a win that keeps Wombourne top of the table.

## Aldridge fall short in 50-over chase to catch up Cannock

IN the Staffs Clubs championship, Aldridge, chasing Cannock's 291-7, reached 177-7 from their 50-over allocation. For Cannock, Faizan Khan hit 11 and Adam Benton 44.

Matthew Westwood (50) and Nabil Khan (54) hit half-centuries in reply.

Bloxwich, skittled for just 94 by Springvale, with Anwar Shamim taking 5-30, went down by eight wickets.

Walsall YPF triumphed by Wolverhampton 3rds by 101 runs. Rizwan Hussein was unbeaten on 51 as YPF totalled 145-8. They then bowled Wolves thirds out for 46. Qaisar Abbas the pick with 4-6. Rafakat Hussain claimed 3-1 and Salim Khan 2-19.

Rushall, who amassed 116-9, went down by five wickets to Penkridge thirds (119-5).

## Keates plotting an overhaul of squad



Dean Keates, in pensive mood on Saturday

BOSS Dean Keates is predicting a busy summer as he looks to build a Walsall team in his own mould. The 39-year-old watched on Saturday as an experimental Saddlers XI ended the season with a 2-0 loss at Fleetwood.

Having replaced the sacked Jon Whitney back in March, Keates is now looking forward to his first transfer window in the Walsall

hotseat. And he showed in his time at Wrexham that he is not afraid to make wholesale changes.

After guiding the Welsh side to safety following the departure of Gary Mills in 2017, Keates ripped up that team to build the one that had been competing for promotion until his departure this year.

And the boss believes this summer could be just as busy for him.

"We will come back and I will make sure there is a team that goes there out there and gives everything for the football club and fans next season.

"It will be a busy summer but that's why I'm here - to give the town and the fans something to be proud of. I have got decisions to make and there are going to be tough decisions."

# SADDLERS BACK DOWN TO EARTH

WHEN Walsall fans reflect on the final week of the 2017/18 campaign, they will look back on a host of fond memories.

A thrilling, last gasp, win over Northampton, together with a battle-hardened draw at Bradford saw the Saddlers clinch safety with a game to spare.

Those matches produced an outpouring of euphoria and relief in equal measure.

But at Fleetwood on Saturday, Walsall were brought back down to earth - with everyone given a reminder of just how big a job Dean Keates has on his hands.

The Cod Army are an intriguing benchmark for the Saddlers.

They too have struggled this year and ultimately ended the campaign sitting a modest 14th in the table. But the reality is their squad boasts much more attacking talent than the one Keates has at his disposal.

And that is something which will have to be rectified if this season of struggle isn't going to be repeated next year.

In glorious sunshine - and with both teams safe - this clash was largely played at the pace of a pre-season friendly.

That was reflected midway through the first half when Jack Fitzwater and Bobby Grant jokingly pretended to box on the sidelines after they received treatment for a clash of heads.

Despite the relaxed nature though, this was a game the Cod Army controlled despite Keates opting for an experimental XI which gave his fringe players a huge chance to impress.

Opting for a 4-5-1 formation. Mark Gillespie was given a rare outing between the posts.

Youngster Callum Cockerill-Mollett was handed a league debut at left-back.

Maz Kouhyar and Reece Flanagan were given the opportunity to stake a first team place. While Florent Cuvelier started despite his contract expiring in just a few weeks.



A bandaged Jack Fitzwater seen on the ball as he tries a shot on goal against Fleetwood on Saturday

But despite all those players having a point to prove, the Cod Army were on top from the first minute to the last.

They deservedly took the lead when the impressive Ashley Hunter curled in a spectacular strike from the edge of the box.

They then doubled their advantage just before half-time with Paddy Madden tapping in after Gillespie could only parry a Kyle Dempsey strike.

In truth, John Sheridan's side could - and probably should - have won by a greater margin. Toumani Diagouraga saw a header clawed away by Gillespie in the first-half.

Then after the break, the midfielder saw a

strike deflect inches over the bar after he connected with a Harrison Biggins's cutback.

Walsall meanwhile offered very little with distance strikes from Kouhyar, Cuvelier and Cockerill-Mollett their only sights of goal.

For the travelling fans it didn't matter too much.

The 1,084 who made the journey enjoyed a carnival atmosphere in the away end.

With safety secured, they sung their hearts out throughout - with Keates admitting afterwards he now has to build a team to make them proud.

Despite the atmosphere, that was the bottom line, this game was a reality check.

## It's third time lucky for Welborn

JASON Welborn upset the odds to win the Battle of the Baggies and make it third time lucky in his quest to collect a Lord Lonsdale belt at Walsall Town Hall.

The 31-year-old from Rowley Regis defeated champion Tommy Langford to be crowned British Middleweight Champion in an absorbing contest sponsored by Amphion Construction, Alliance Scaffolding and Grosvenor Casino Walsall.

The duo - both West Bromwich Albion fans - gave everything they had in a Fight of the Year contender on BCB Promotions' latest sell-out show.

In front of a jam-packed crowd it was Welborn who started the brighter, closing the camp and attacking Langford with concerted pressure. He rocked the Champion in the second with referee, Terry O'Connor, giving Langford a standing eight count.

Welborn - out at 7/1 before the fight began with Langford a heavy 1/18 favourite - continued to pour forward but Langford, rather than box at range and use his undoubted skills, chose to engage which played into the challenger's hands.

The mid rounds were Langford's as Welborn stepped off the gas a little but the challenger came back strong to win a split decision.

Elsewhere on the card there were wins for Rowley Regis' Midlands Area Middleweight Champion, Tyler Denny, Walsall's Rachel Ball, Birmingham pair Kane Baker and Shake Thompson.

## Teams wanted as league to kick off

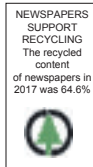
A NEW season kicks off soon in the Walsall 6-a-side leagues - and teams are urged to join before the last few remaining places are snapped up.

The leagues, which take place at Oak Park Active Living, Walsall Wood, on Mondays, is looking to expand, and teams are competing for top prizes, including a holiday to Germany.

There is reduced entry to all new teams. All matches are refereed by qualified officials, all equipment is provided and all profits are donated to charity.

Register at [www.leisureleagues.net/league/oak-park-active-living-centre-walsall-monday](http://www.leisureleagues.net/league/oak-park-active-living-centre-walsall-monday) or call 0333123230.

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## Could you be the future of Fostering?

Fostering has changed my life – it's the best thing I've ever done. I feel that I'm the lucky one. My three children are a gift and I really can't imagine our home without them. – Mandy, foster carer.

You  
Could  
Foster

Proud  
to support  
Foster Care  
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Walsall Council

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Search **FosteringInWalsall**



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Foster Care Fortnight is Fostering Network's national campaign to promote awareness of fostering and to recruit more foster carers. Walsall Council is proud to be supporting #FCF2018

## Make a difference - Be the difference - You Could Foster

Being a foster carer is a job that rewards like no other. Walsall foster carers provide loving and nurturing homes for children who aren't able to live with their families, helping them to have security, stability and opportunities for a brighter future. We support our community of foster carers every step of the way, developing knowledge, confidence and the skills to provide the very best care possible to our children and young people. Walsall foster carers - helping Walsall children to be safe, happy and learning well. Could now be your time to foster?



## What do our foster families say?

**Steven** - There is no magic to it, no specific skillset, just the ability to have patience, love and understanding. Become a foster carer, you can do it too.

**Irene** - You can be the one who can help a child to be safe; help families who are going through a hard time. Step by step, you can make a huge difference in someone's life.

**Martin** - We know that our foster child started his life in a loving, warm, safe environment with us. His laugh, his first step, his first tooth - it is everything to us, it's priceless.

**Bethany** - Fostering is without a doubt the most rewarding job I have ever done. It has given me a real sense of satisfaction and achievement. To anyone considering fostering I would say if you can offer time and commitment then get in touch. It will probably be the best decision you ever make. It certainly was for me.

**Liam, son of a fostering family** - I love to help my mom with the little ones and play with them, with their toys. I enjoy showing the older children how to use a computer, as I am a bit of a geek! My experience as a foster brother has made me realise that I would like to work within this field of either foster carer, social work or support work with children.

"There was a boy....  
A boy who dreamt of becoming something more"

Find out how Dan's potential is realised with a little care and guidance from his foster carers.

Visit Facebook/FosteringInWalsall or [www.fosteringinwalsall.co.uk](http://www.fosteringinwalsall.co.uk)

Monday 14th May from 11.30am to watch and share our new short film 'There Was A Boy'.

#ThereWasABoy #FosterForYourLA



We know there will be hard times and many challenges to overcome, but equally we know that there isn't another career out there for us that could offer the same level of fun and reward. – Maria & Luke

## Why Foster with Walsall Council?

**We are responsible** for finding foster placements for the children in our care and we always try to place them with our own foster carers first. This means that as Walsall foster carers you are more likely to have regular placements with children in the age ranges you are skilled to work with.

**We don't make a profit** from caring for Walsall children and young people. We want the best possible placements available for our young people to grow and thrive so we invest in recruiting people who will make great foster carers to make this a reality.

**You can expect to be paid** between £200 to £600 per week for caring for children for Walsall Council, dependent on how many children you care for and your skills and expertise. There is also an age-related allowance paid for each child in your care. We provide an additional allowance at birthdays and festival times. You can claim fostering related mileage and expenses.

**We offer a wide and varied training programme** to help build your skills and confidence as foster carers. Introductory 'Induction Workshops' and more specialist courses such as Paediatric First Aid, Attachment, Sex & Sexuality and the 'Solihull Approach' course are available. Our training courses take place in venues in and around Walsall so are local and accessible. An online training programme is available too.

**Your supervising social worker is local** to you and easily reached. We have an 'out of hours' team too, so you have 24 hour support. We work with many different professional teams to help with the children in your care such as health and educational professionals. The introduction of Fostering Network's 'Mockingbird' programme will offer extra support and you may be able to join one of our Mockingbird constellations in the near future.

**We provide a Max Card**, entitling foster carers to discounts from national retailers, discounted days out and fun activities to do together.

**We provide FREE membership to Fostering Network** for all of our approved foster carers. Membership to the national leading fostering charity includes access to events and conferences, special discounts at retailers, access to legal advice, counselling and a growing community of fellow foster carers for support.

**We have a local Foster Carers Association** run by experienced foster carers, who offer a 24 hour telephone helpline, buddying for new carers and advice with training portfolio workshops. They also arrange many social outings for the whole fostering family.

**We value all of our foster carers** and recognise this with celebration events. We have recognised carers long service with visits to the Mayor's Parlour and more social and celebratory events are planned during the year.

## Mockingbird Fostering Programme

Mockingbird will shape the vision for our fostering service during the next 5 years and beyond. It will help to support our growing community of foster carers and the children and young people they care for. Our vision is for all fostered children and young people to experience love, care, support and stability.

Mockingbird is an innovative way of delivering foster care with the potential to improve placement stability, safety and permanence for children and young people in care, and to improve support for and retention of, foster carers.

Mockingbird centres on the idea of an extended network of family support,

empowering families to support each other and overcome challenges before they escalate, and to offer children and young people a more positive, consistent, and secure experience of care.

We are establishing our first Mockingbird constellations in Spring 2018. A combination of newly approved foster carers and experienced foster carers will be offered the opportunity to join in with a supportive Mockingbird constellation. Current Walsall foster carers who are interested in being part of a constellation can call 0800 923 3706 for more information. You can also visit [www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/mockingbird](http://www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/mockingbird)





# I've often thought about fostering but....

**This is something we hear so often!! Lots of people are eligible to foster but some of the myths about fostering stop them from finding out more. Here's a few of the common myths explored...**

## **I'm single, I can't foster -**

You can be single, living with a partner, married or from the LGBT community.

## **I can't work and foster -**

It depends how many hours you work, how flexible your current employer is and on the ages and needs of the children you foster. We pay allowances to cover your household costs and an additional amount for each child you foster.

Some employers, including Walsall Council, have a Family Friendly policy which may provide flexibility and support if you decide to become a foster carer.

## **I'm too old to foster -**

There's no upper age limit for foster carers! As long as you are fit and able to care for a child then there is no official age where you are 'too old' to foster.

## **I don't own my home -**

You can live in either rented or owned accommodation. If you are a tenant then your landlord just needs to confirm to us that they are happy for you to foster. It's important that each child you care for has their own bedroom, a space just for them.

## **I don't have children of my own -**

You don't need to have your own children to be a good foster carer. Time spent caring for nieces, nephews or working or volunteering with children will be valuable experience too.

## **I'm already a foster carer for an Independent Fostering Agency -**

We welcome foster carers who currently work with IFA's. We have a protocol in place that means a transfer to Walsall Council could take as little as four months. Call us for more information about this!

# Join us and make a difference!

**We need more inspirational foster carers to look after local children. Are you ready to find out more about fostering with Walsall Council? Come and meet some of Walsall's fostering team and foster carers at our friendly drop-in information sessions below.**

**Monday 14th May**

Watch and share our new fostering film from 11.30am  
[www.fosteringinwalsall.co.uk](http://www.fosteringinwalsall.co.uk)

**Tuesday 15th May**  
10.00am - 12.00pm

Brownhills Library,  
Park View Centre,  
Chester Rd North,  
WS8 7JB.

**Wednesday 16th May**  
4.00pm - 6.30pm

Council House,  
Lichfield Street,  
Walsall,  
WS1 1UZ.

**Thursday 17th May**  
10.00am - 12.00pm

'Open House'  
drop in Coffee Morning,  
Walsall Foster Carers Association,  
28 New Forest Road,  
WS3 1TR

**Tuesday 22nd May**  
11.00am - 2.00pm

Manor Hospital,  
Pleck Road entrance,  
Walsall,  
WS2 9PS

**Wednesday 23rd May**  
10.00am - 12.00pm

Aldridge Library  
Rookery Lane,  
Aldridge,  
WS9 8NP

**Thursday 24th May**  
10.00am - 12.00pm

Pelsall Village Centre,  
High Street,  
Pelsall,  
WS3 4LX

**Friday 25th May**  
11.00am - 2.00pm

Essington Lodge,  
106 Essington Road,  
WV12 5EX  
Please book in for this session by  
calling 0800 923 3706.

**Discover more about fostering with Walsall Council:**

**Website:** [www.fosteringinwalsall.co.uk](http://www.fosteringinwalsall.co.uk) **Email:** [fosteringinwalsall@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:fosteringinwalsall@walsall.gov.uk)



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**#FosterForYourLA**

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